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NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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KUWAIT DAILY REFUTES IRANIAN CLAIMS ON TRAINING IRAQIS

GF031614 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 3 Nov 81 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Tehran's Confused Insinuations"]

[Excerpt] One no longer wonders about what Tehran does. Regrettably, its attitude does not stem from a responsible state. Thus, we were not astonished that its official news agency has published a report that conceals intrigue and lacks the simplest elements of logic. The article claims that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are offering military training for Iraqi youths in order to protect the ruling regime in Iraq. The article continues its unfounded claims by saying that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia finance the training of Iraqi youths and provide them with wealth and arms in special training camps....etc. It is obvious that whoever listens to this realizes--in advance--that this statement is weak, noisy and meaningless. Iraq can train its own youths, establish training camps for them on its own soil and provide them with trainers without asking for such help from its brothers in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

This attitude, recently reached by Tehran, discloses the situation Iran has reached particularly in its shaky position toward Iraq and toward its continuing war against it. As a result of disability the Iranian imagination invents tales and stories in order to justify its previous and upcoming aggressions against Kuwait by claiming that Kuwait offers military aid to Iraq. However, Tehran knows well that Iraq is not in need of such aid and that it is capable of fulfilling the confrontation that has been imposed on it.

Iran wants to justify its rejection of all initiatives proposed by the region's states and by the general Islamic move in order to put an end to this war and restore peace in the region by respecting rights and sovereignty and by non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states.

CSO: 4404/93

ARIG TO UNDERWRITE ITS FUTURE

London 8 DAYS in English No 42, 24 Oct 81 pp 4-5

[Article by Nigel Ash]

[Text]

THE Arab Insurance Group (ARIG), capital \$3bn, was launched last week in Bahrain to a mixture of enthusiasm and guarded comment. The enthusiasm came from the three equal shareholders in the project, Libya, Kuwait and the UAE, who have so far paid up \$150m of the mammoth share capital. The reservations came from members of Lloyd's of London, to whose hegemony of the insurance world ARIG will pose a further challenge.

Lloyd's committee chairman Peter Green was guest of honour at the three-day inauguration ceremony in Manama, for which ARIG had flown in favoured journalists and guests from the international reinsurance community at a rumoured cost of Bahraini dinars 2.5m (\$6.6m).

Green made the point that competition was welcome but went on to warn: 'In England we have a proverb which we all learn at our mother's knee and it is that one shouldn't run before one has learnt to walk. There are too many cases of people who have tried it and fallen flat on their faces.' The remark, made during a speech at an ARIG cocktail party, did not go down well. Some ARIG supporters believed that when Green went on to congratulate ARIG on placing 30 per cent of their reinsurance so far on the Lloyd's market, he was going too far. The attitude among leading Lloyd's underwriters and brokers, who were also guests at the launch, was less aggressive.

It was pointed out, however, that when fully capitalised, ARIG would have nearly three-quarters the capacity of Lloyd's, and twenty times that of New York. British and, to a lesser extent, US insurance men, used for so long to having underwriting virtually

to themselves, find such potential penetration hard to conceive.

But ARIG's Kuwaiti chairman Fawzi Musaad al Saleh, who has wide business interests apart from the new insurance giant, appeared not in the least put out by the reservations of the insurance establishment: 'Perhaps Mr Green's children didn't learn to walk before they were eight months old,' he told *8 Days*, 'but mine were walking after three months.'

Though ARIG intends to start dealing as a reinsurers, dealing specifically with international treaty and facultative (individual risk) business, the plan is to launch underwriting of direct insurance as soon as is 'sensible'. This will be done through a network of group companies, joint ventures and branch offices or agencies throughout the world. *8 Days* has learnt that ARIG will soon be opening a London contact office at Plantation House, in the City.

The company actually started operations last July. At that time, chairman Al Saleh said he expected gross premium income to be \$50m by October 1982. However ARIG say the group's performance in its first three months of operation suggests that the figure will be nearer \$100m.

The exact dimension of that performance remains somewhat obscure. ARIG representatives would not be specific except to say that the company had picked up a number of deals, including one with the Kuwaiti-based United Arab Shipping Company (UASC). Unofficial sources put their premium income thus far at \$17.5m, though a director of the company insisted to *8 Days* that they were already short of the

\$50m target set for this time next year. This disparity in figures probably represents the difference between written and accounted premium income.

One of the big problems that ARIG now faces is amassing the right insurance talent to compete in what has for some years now been a depressed and relatively cut-throat market. Farook Khwaja, their leading underwriter, told *8 Days* that the company had ten underwriters, all expatriates, none of whom had less than 20 years' experience.

ARIG intends to train their own people, but for the meantime it is admitted that they must rely on imported help. Throughout the three-day inauguration, rumours were rife that one medium-size London underwriters was about to be bought by ARIG, but both ARIG and representatives of the London firm concerned refused to comment. While such a take-over would certainly be useful to the Arab company, it is not urgent, given the company's intention to stick to reinsurance for the immediate future.

One thing ARIG does need though is a general manager. It is understood that the board feel the post should be filled by an Arab and there are a number of people qualified for the job. It is not known what difficulties have so far prevented an appointment.

CSO: 4400/33

HUNGARY SEEKS UAE TRADE

Dubai KHALEEJ TIMES in English 24 Oct 81 p 18

[Article by Yusuf Urdoh]

[Text]

HUNGARY expects to boost its exports to the UAE from 3.5 million dollars last year to five million dollars in the current year, which will be a 30 per cent increase.

Managing director-cum-vice president of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, Professor Tamas Beck, told Khaleej Times there was good scope for his country to improve trade links with the Middle East.

Prof. Beck, who is also the general manager of a major textile company in his country, Budaflax, which exports 50 per cent of its products met Sharif bin Ahmed Otaiba, president of both Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the UAE Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) besides top officials from these two organisations.

Trade links

He explained that their trade links with Kuwait were strong and was making a remarkable progress. The direct air route, which has been connecting the two states in the last three years, had helped the trade.

He said such facilities would no doubt have helped their nations' trade with other Gulf countries. They could compete in many areas.

To illustrate the point, he spelled out that they had some remarkable advantages in the fields of irrigation, railways, electronic and electric equipment, power stations and sub-power stations, fertilizers, pesticides and autobuses.

He said that they had a huge transport company, which operates a very large fleet of heavy duty vehicles to the Middle East plus a large number of ships which shuttled between East Europe and this part of the world.

"Hence, when it comes to transport we have no problems other than those facing all the European countries," he commented.

He added that it was not their aim to widen only their markets in the Middle East but they were intent to strengthen their links with the world as a whole.

"Well right now, we are coming from Bangkok where we held a huge exhibition for the products of 21 Hungarian companies," said Prof. Beck.

New drive

He pointed out that the new drive by the Hungarian business community

was the result of a fresh government policy which gave more prerogatives to the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce.

"Only last January the Chamber of Commerce was reorganised. Men who are actually involved in different aspects of the country's business activities were given the responsibility of running the organisation. This brought with it a high degree of efficiency," he emphasised.

For instance, he went on, the new president was and still is the president of the company which produces aluminium in the country. He added that the same thing was true of all the vice-presidents and other top office bearers.

Referring to the current unrest in Poland, Prof. Beck said it had no influence on business relations between his country and this trouble-torn East European nation. He claimed that Poland had fulfilled all its commitments to the other Comecon nations this year.

Hungary earns dollars five billion from its exports to dollar areas. However, it is the fifth East European exporter to Abu Dhabi after Romania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Poland. The total East European imports to Abu Dhabi last year was Dh 97,770,606.

BRIEFS

CHADIAN DELEGATION MEETS SAUDI OFFICIAL--Riyadh, 21 Oct (SPA)--The Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs, Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, today received a delegation from Chad comprising Minister of State for Interior and Security Mahamat Abba Said; Labor Minister Tchori Affono and roving ambassador in the Middle East Abdullah Adam. They were accompanied by the Chad charge d'affaires in the kingdom, Musa Nana. The delegation handed Shaykh Mansuri a letter from the Chad president to his majesty the king. The delegation explained the development of the situation in Chad. Bilateral relations were also reviewed. [Text] [LD211448 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Oct 81]

KHALID CONGRATULATES BREZHNEV--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz sent congratulatory cables to His Excellency President Leonid Brezhnev, chairman of USSR Presidium, and His Excellency President Houphouet-Boigny, the president of the Ivory Coast, on the occasion of their countries' national days. The cables expressed his majesty's congratulations to the two leaders and his wishes for continued progress and success for the peoples of the two countries. [Text] [LD071730 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Nov 81]

SAUDI OFFICIAL MEETS COSTA RICAN DELEGATION--Foreign Ministry Under Secretary for Political Affairs Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri met today with a Costa Rican delegation that includes Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus, Energy Minister Fernando Altmann and Costa Rican Ambassador to the Kingdom Miguel Yamuni Iabush. During the meeting the situation in Central America and the situation in the Middle East were discussed. The two sides also discussed Saudi Arabia's peace plan, which was welcomed by the Costa Rican delegation, as well as economic relations between the two countries and means of expanding them. [Text] [GF071932 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 81]

BRAZILIAN ENERGY MINISTER IN SAUDI ARABIA--Cesar Cals de Oliveira, the Brazilian minister of mines and energy, arrived in Riyadh tonight on a 3-day visit to Saudi Arabia. During the visit he will hold talks with Shaykh Zaki Ahmad Yamani, the Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, on cooperation in the petroleum field. The Brazilian mines and energy minister stated that his visit comes within the framework of the exchange of visits between the officials of the two countries to enhance and bolster bilateral relations. [Text] [GF071920 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 81] Brazilian Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals de Oliveira left Riyadh this afternoon after a 1-day visit to the kingdom. During this visit he held talks with Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani on oil cooperation. [Text] [GF081932 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 81]

CSO: 4404/94

IRAQI LOANS TO JORDAN

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 27 Oct 81 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Amman, Monday

The Iraqi Fund for external Development will extend loans to Jordan to finance development projects according to an agreement signed yesterday by the two countries.

The agreement was signed by visiting Iraqi First Deputy Premier and member of the Revolution Command Council, Mr Taha Yassin Ramadhan, and by the Jordanian Prime Minister, Mr Mudhar Badran.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Ramadhan had words of thanks for the hospitality with which he was received.

Commenting on bilateral relations, he said that for a long time relations between the two countries had been characterised by cooperation and coordination in all fields, adding that this was in line with directives of President Saddam

Hussein emanating from the belief in Arab unity.

The First Deputy Premier went on referring to rising level of cooperation between Iraq and Jordan, which had encompassed new fields particularly in economic coordination.

Mr Ramadhan described his talks with Jordanian officials as "successfull and fruitfull" and to have lead to the endorsement of a comprehensive cooperation framework.

The Jordanian Premier on the other hand speaking on the occasion stressed that meetings between the two sides emphasised the wish to develop cooperation and were aimed at economic integration and Arab unity.

At another level, minutes of the meetings of the Iraqi-Jordanian Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperat-

ion were signed yesterday by the Iraqi Minister of Trade and member of the Revolution Command Council, Mr Hassan Ali and by his Jordanian counterpart, Mr Walced Asfour.

According to the minutes, three committees will be set up to follow up trade exchange between the two countries, in addition to industrial and mineral, transport and housing cooperation. Another committee would look after technical and scientific cooperation.

A new joint Iraqi-Jordanian company was also formed yesterday. The company, the Iraqi-Jordanian company of industry was signed by Mr Mohammed Tahir al-Hayali, chairman of the Iraqi Establishment for food Industries and by the Deputy Jordanian Industry Minister, Mr Mohammed Salih al-Hourani.

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

IRAQIS RELEASED BY SYRIANS--Beirut, 2 Nov (INA)—The Syrian deterrent forces today detained eight Iraqi Embassy employees on the road to Beirut International Airport. They were on their way to the airport accompanied by a car of the Lebanese internal security forces to bid farewell to a colleague. During their detention, the embassy employees were beaten by elements of the Syrian deterrent forces. Iraqi Ambassador to Lebanon 'Abd al-Razzaq Muhammad contacted Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus on this subject, after which the detainees were released. The Iraqi Embassy in Beirut was fired upon on 21 October from a nearby Syrian deterrent forces checkpoint. [Text] [JN021859 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 2 Nov 81]

PDRY CHAIRMAN VISITS KUWAIT--'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, will arrive in Kuwait tomorrow, Sunday, on a 2-day visit during which he will hold talks with his highness the amir on bilateral relations and current Arab issues. The talks are being held before the Gulf Cooperation Council summit that will be held on 10 November and before the Fes Arab summit that will be held on 25 November. During these summits, various Arab and international issues will be reviewed. AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned that during the PDRY chairman's visit, Kuwait will discuss the outcome of the efforts the government has made to overcome the difficulties obstructing good relations between Oman and the PDRY. Kuwait will also raise the issue of the role that Kuwait can play in normalizing relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY. Reliable sources say that there is an interest in keeping the region free from all international conflicts so that appropriate measures can be taken for the extensive work required for the welfare of this region, its development and prosperity. Meanwhile, reliable sources have said that contacts have been made among the Gulf states to assess the current stand, particularly after the U.S. Senate's approval of the AWACS deal to Saudi Arabia. Official sources have considered this approval an Arab victory over the Zionist lobby in Washington. [Excerpt] [GF311707 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 31 Oct 81 p 3]

KHALID RECEIVES ALGERIAN PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received today (al-Khaybra) al-Ibrahimi and 'Abd al-Hamid al-Mihari, members of the ruling party in Algeria. They conveyed a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to His Majesty King Khalid. The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, His Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd

al-'Aziz, Defense and Aviation Minister His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Foreign Minister His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal and the king's adviser Rashad Far'un. [Excerpt] [GF021939 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Nov 81]

YAR MESSAGE TO BAHRAINI AMIR--Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah has received a message from his brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message, which was conveyed by brother 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, Consultative Council member, to Shaykh 'Isa in Manama today, is related to relations between the two fraternal states and issues pertaining to the forthcoming Arab summit conference. Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud said that the current Arab and international developments were also reviewed during the meeting. [Text] [JN091746 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 81]

'ARAFAT-SAUDI OFFICIALS MEETING--Riyadh, 4 Nov (SPA)--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has made it clear that the Saudi peace plan includes new and constructive principles. 'Arafat, in an interview with today's AL-JAZIRAH described his meeting with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and senior officials in Saudi Arabia as an important meeting which stressed the firm stand of the Saudi Government and people in supporting the case of the Palestine people in their just struggle. The meeting stressed the continuation of this support and backing until the flag of our nation is hoisted above Jerusalem. Regarding the AWACS deal for Saudi Arabia, 'Arafat expressed his hope that the Americans will understand that their Arab interests are more important than their interests with the Zionist entity. [Text] [LD041124 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1004 GMT 4 Nov 81]

LIBYAN SUB TO PLO--Mid-East reports, circulating in Egypt, Oman and Saudi Arabia, claim that Libya's President Muammar Qadhafi has purchased and is outfitting a submarine for PLO terrorists. The vessel, it is reported, was built in West Germany, carries a crew of 35 and was purchased through Turkey. No official confirmation of this report can be obtained, but it is recalled that PLO propagandists have repeatedly threatened that when the time was ripe, they would sink a tanker. This, it is stated, could be Qadhafi's revenge for the shooting down of two of his fighters by US F-14 Tomcats over the Mediterranean. The submarine is thought to be a Type 209, built by Howaldswerke, of Kiel, and is armed with eight 21-inch torpedo tubes, with an underwater speed of 22 knots. The type is considered ideal for limited operations in the relatively shallow waters of the Mediterranean. The threat of a PLO-owned submarine is being taken seriously in view of Pres Qadhafi's previous threats to attack civilian targets. When a party of wealthy European and American Jews chartered the British luxury liner Queen Elizabeth 2 for a cruise to commemorate the founding of the State of Israel, the giant ship had to be escorted by NATO naval frigates. This was after thinly-veiled threats from Qadhafi that the ship, laden with Zionists who had contributed generously to Israeli causes, would never make it past Libya to its destination of Haifa, at the eastern end of the Mediterranean. [By Aida Parker] [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 14 Oct 81 p 8]

LIBYA FAVORS SYRIAN PRODUCTS--Tripoli, (SANA)--The Libyan Secretary of Economy, Mr Abu Zaid Doura, received here on Monday the Syrian Minister of Industry, Mr Hussein al-Qadi, and discussed promotion of their trade relations and exchange of industrial products. The Libyan Secretary promised to give preference to Syrian industrial products in the import programme of Libya. The Syrian Minister visited in the afternoon the Secretariat for Heavy Industries and discussed with the Libyan officials there the coordination of industrial cooperation between the two countries. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 22 Sep 81 p 2]

IRAQI, JORDANIAN TRANSPORT FIRM--Amman--The governments of Jordan and Iraq yesterday formed a transport company to step up the Iraqi use of Jordan's bustling port at Aqaba on the Red Sea. The company was formed following talks between Jordan's King Hussein and an Iraqi delegation led by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. After Iranian planes bombed Iraqi ports in the Shatt Al-Arab, King Hussein threw open his harbour at Aqaba to receive goods bound for Iraq. Spokesman for the two delegations said the transport company owns 750 trucks and should put another 450 into operation by sometime next month. The Iraqi deputy premier also discussed trade and economic relations and the general situation in the Middle East with King Hussein and later with Jordanian Premier Mudar Badran. [Text] [Dubai KHALEEJ TIMES in English 26 Oct 81 p 22]

CSO: 4400/41

OIL SLUMP BITES DEEPER INTO OPEC

London 8 DAYS in English No 39, 3 Oct 81 pp 55-56

[Text]

PLUNGING DEMAND for Opec oil is hitting the exporters' group harder than even its most inveterate western foes imagined a few months ago.

Estimates of how much oil the 13 Opec members are actually producing vary considerably, although there is no doubt that output is well below last year's 27m barrels a day. In a buyers' market, sellers are naturally cautious about giving away their true position. Oil industry sources said, however, that the Opec total last month was probably running at between 20.1m and 20.3m barrels daily, and according to the Paris-based Arab Centre for Petroleum Studies it went even lower mid-month, to 19.15m b/d.

Oil Minister Subruto of Indonesia, Opec's current president, blamed the slump in demand for Opec oil in part on factors that will have a permanent effect — the use of more coal and other alternatives to oil by the West, and the introduction of fuel-efficient homes, cars and machines.

However, Subruto, speaking at an oil seminar in Oxford, UK, did not rule out the possibility of a quick turnabout in the oil market, although he acknowledged that world demand would probably not rise as fast in the 1980s as was previously predicted.

Temporary factors were also depressing demand, Subruto said. Aside from world recession and consumers' short-term reaction to high prices, he listed two other such factors — high interest rates and the oil market's peculiar psychology.

High US interest rates, which have been

buoying the US dollar on world currency markets, have added at least 10 per cent to the cost of crude imports in many countries outside the US, forcing up pump prices and keeping down petrol consumption: Opec crude oil is priced in dollars.

High interest rates also make it more costly to store oil. Companies usually build up their stocks ahead of the winter, when cold snaps can cause sudden peaks in consumption, but this year companies are running them down from record levels.

Oil industry sources report that a possible 1.25m b/d are now flowing out of stocks, when companies would normally be building them up by at least 2m b/d. The companies feel free to run stocks down in the expectation that a tight market will not develop, and that the price will not rise. It makes sense to hold oil when prices are rising to reap lucrative stock profits.

On this aspect of market psychology, Subruto said: 'Things could turn around quickly. Expectations can just as likely speed up a reversal in the oil market when prices and production stabilise within Opec.' Western industry sources question this. 'You have to be careful about whistling in the wind,' an official with one major company said.

But officials at the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), which groups 21 western oil consuming nations, say they think the fall in demand for Opec oil should bottom out this winter. That does not mean prices will climb. But the risk of Opec falling apart in a desperate scramble among the 13 members to undercut one another will

recede as demand creeps up.

Even now, all the exporters — other than Iraq and Iran — could probably sell as much oil as they needed to, were it not for the pricing and production policies of Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter. Western bankers calculate that the Saudis could meet revenue needs producing only about two-thirds of their present 9m b/d.

But the Saudis, determined to enforce their moderate pricing ideas on Opec hawks, say no major reduction in their output can be expected until Opec realigns prices at a level closer to their own rate of \$32 a barrel, Opec's lowest.

There is also growing support, apparently, for Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Yamani's underlying view that, once realigned, Opec prices should be frozen until the end of 1982 and then raised only gradually — a strategy designed to tempt the consumer back to oil.

Industry executives tend to agree, but raise the question of what might happen to Opec if Iraq and Iran stop fighting and try to boost war-restricted exports before demand has recovered sufficiently. Between them they could produce at least 3m b/d more than at present.

CSO: 4400/33

EXILE GROUP DESCRIBES ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INVASION

Lahore DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT in English 16 Oct 81 p 8

[Article by the Association for Information and Documentation of Afghanistan]

[Text]

The following article was prepared by the Association for Information and Documentation of Afghanistan. The association is a news service recently established by Afghan exiles, with offices in Paris and Peshawar, Pakistan.

The disastrous impact of the Soviet presence on Afghanistan's economy lends an ambiguous flavor to some of the Kremlin's latest declarations on the situation.

For example, in its response to the holding of a Peoples' Tribunal on Afghanistan in Stockholm in May (document submitted by a Soviet embassy in Western Europe to the tribunal), the Soviet government pointed out that before the April 1978 "revolution," the country stagnated in conditions of serious underdevelopment: "One of the poorest and least developed states in the world. In 1977 per capita income was only \$162. ... 86% of the population was rural Despite favorable conditions for the development of agriculture, stockbreeding and mining industries in Afghanistan, the greater part of its needs in foodstuffs and consumer goods had to be imported...."

By first putting the whole debate on the Soviet presence in Afghanistan on an economic plane, the Soviet Union would like to justify its intervention there. Indefensible in terms of international law, highly objectionable in terms of human suffering, the Soviet invasion could somehow find a sort of post facto legitimacy in terms of future economic benefits to be bestowed on the occupied land.

A diplomat from the Afghan Democratic Republic's embassy in Paris apparently agreed with the Soviet point of view in a press conference held on June 30, 1981: "We should like to emphasize, as the leaders of our country have often declared, that our recent economic progress has been due to the brotherly and disinterested help of the Soviet Union, which is now the determining factor in the economic development of our country." Sadly enough, the reality of the

economic situation is a bit more complicated than that.

To begin with, any analysis of pre-occupation Afghan economic life demands somewhat more sophistication. Actually, as a traditional agrarian and pastoral society, rural Afghanistan had worked out a balanced way of life in a specific geographical environment (arid and mountainous) many centuries ago.

Hierarchically organized, Afghan peasants maintained an extensive and delicate network of irrigation canals which enabled them to achieve self-sufficiency in food: The staple crop was wheat, while extensive sheep-herding allowed maximum exploitation of the semi-desert steppes. Infant mortality was assuredly severe, but this checked population growth and limited pressure on available irrigated land. Traditional Afghanistan consequently avoided overpopulation and was free of famines and of the sort of abject misery of the Indian kind — the disastrous drought of 1972 being an exception.

Economic Transformations

To borrow an expression used by French geographer P. Gentile (in his article in *Temps Modernes*, July/August 1980), Afghanistan was not "underdeveloped," but "nondeveloped": Economic transformations had not yet dislocated rural society and sent displaced peasants to dwell in slums around burgeoning industrial centers, as in so many Third World countries. The Afghan countryside before the Soviet occupation did not yet fit into such commonly accepted categories as "poverty" and "proletarianization."

Economic transformations, however, had become inevitable by the late 1980s. New roads linked Afghanistan with the rest of the world, while the country became progressively integrated into the international market. Such changes were bound to disturb the traditional social order. However, as it tentatively entered the path of modernization, (starting in 1963 but especially since

1963), Afghanistan did enjoy a number of natural resources, which were its own to use as it saw fit: These included notably natural gas and exploitable minerals.

What is extremely serious about the present situation is the new, unbalanced relationship between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. The Soviet Union now confiscates the country's resources and denies Afghanistan the right to use its own natural wealth, according to its own economic and social goals.

With the loss of political sovereignty comes a new kind of economy, the neocolonial type. Afghan "progress" or economic development is henceforth subordinated to specific Soviet needs. As a vassal state, Afghanistan's economic survival will have to depend on the requirements and fluctuations of Soviet priorities.

By paralyzing preoccupation Afghan economic activity and through rigid integration of Afghanistan into Soviet economic networks, the Soviet Union has virtually subjected the country — especially in the three key fields of energy, trade and transport.

It has already been years since the Soviet Union became the sole customer for Afghan natural gas, which is piped directly into Soviet Central Asia. Since the occupation, the Soviet Union no longer pays for this gas; instead, it deducts the gas's estimated value from the increasingly heavy debt owed by the Afghan government to the Soviet Union.

This debt essentially represents the costs of the Soviet Union's own military occupation of Afghanistan, which is charged to the Kabul government. The debt now amounts to about \$3 billion. Even if this debt were no longer increased (which is impossible), it would take Afghanistan 10 years to discharge it according to the present flow of its gas to the Soviet Union.

Even this calculation is warped, because in any case the Soviet Union shows no sign of putting an end to its military occupation with

its attendant costs. Furthermore nobody really knows how much Afghan natural gas daily leaves the country except for Soviet technicians, who enjoy sole access to gas meters. Afghan officials are barred from the meters. Finally, in mid-1980, the Soviet Union priced Afghan natural gas at the rate of \$83 per 1000 cubic meters, which is only half current world rates. In other words, Afghans are condemned to pay back a debt subject to constant inflation, with a natural resource whose price is constantly controlled and deflated by the creditor himself.

The hemorrhage of natural gas has forced industries in the Afghan North, such as the Mazar-e Sharif fertilizer and electric plants built for gas consumption, to switch to coal. However, owing to the success of the resistance forces in controlling most of the countryside, it has become difficult, not to say impossible, for these plants to enjoy access to coal. This has caused economic activity in Northern Afghanistan to plummet.

CSO: 4600/86

TOTAL ELECTRIFICATION BY 1990 SET AS GOAL

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French No 918, 25 Sep-1 Oct 81 pp 15-17

[Article by Y Sassi: "Increasing the Efforts"]

[Text] Discussing the problems of the general electrification of the country involves above all establishing for this operation the multiple dimensions involved and the weight of the impact which is simultaneously sociological, economic and cultural. The list of the things done and the blessings brought by electricity in effect is so long that it would be ambitious and difficult to make it complete. From the point of view of home lighting up to the functioning of industrial complexes, including the classic framework of family and national celebrations, the contribution of electricity is more than important. It almost makes it possible to give this kind of energy, on the same basis as air and water, the status of a vital element.

As a tool for development, it is also a valued advantage for the improvement of the living conditions of the masses. In terms of the plans for urban and rural development prevalent in the countries of the Third World, an Algerian sociologist has declared in particular that, "The fact of colonialism and then the mechanismsof dependence on other countries constitute the historical and ideological framework within which the communications networks are woven, the urban structures are prepared....the economic decisions are definitively made, and the constraints are measured which determine the 'choices' to be made in terms of urban and rural development."

For our country the choice is clear: in addition to the social objectives it is a question of carrying out properly a program of development which is independent and balanced between sectors and regions. Thus the general electrification of the country--far from being subordinated to the pursuit of profit, as in other countries--is conceived of as a social operation which should not be slowed down by considerations of pure profitability. The immediate objective for 1990 should in principle be the general electrification of the country.

The Context of the New Dimensions

The instrument for achievement of this objective is the National Electricity and Gas Company.

Shortly after independence the status of the electrification of the country reflected an unbalanced distribution, the logical consequence of the preceding policy of providing electricity. A privilege of the well-off--even if they lived in very isolated areas--the electricity network was of benefit to nearly 1,000 farms belonging to large landowners, whereas only 450 towns and cities were connected to the system. The small amount of customers served (landowners, villages, and sections of cities mostly inhabited by French people), flagrantly distorted numerically in comparison with the number of electrical installations in place.

Coinciding with the reorganization of the national economy, the policy followed during the first few years of independence brought practically no change. On the contrary, a substantial decline in electricity consumption in homes and industries was to result from the departure of the French en masse: respectively, home consumption was down by 33 percent and industrial consumption was down by 20 percent between 1961 and 1963. A timid increase between 1965 and 1970 only resulted in providing electricity to 74 new villages and about 15,000 homes.

The strengthening of the monopoly on electricity production, the reworking of the old legislation pertaining to the EGA [Algerian Electricity and Gas Company], and its adaptation to the status of an instrument of development, as assigned to SONEGAS [National Electricity and Gas Company]--there was a whole series of factors which would make it possible, beginning in 1969, to bring this national enterprise into the planned industrialization effort. The total installed capacity would be tripled in the decade from 1969 to 1979. Some 1,540 localities would be connected, for a total of 300,000 new subscribers. The rate of national electrification thus went up from 47 percent in 1969 to 63 percent in 1980.

It was in this context of rearranging the framework that the directors of SONEGAS placed the idea of rural electrification. The efforts made in this direction, prior to independence, were only limited, short-term in scope, and only concerned a minority of privileged people. Elsewhere, the urban/rural division only corresponded to a concern with analysis and not in any precise way to a specific, geographic division. Without denying the need for the electrification of the countryside, there has therefore been a real ascending curve of regional development, a policy for the general electrification of the country which has been in effect since 1975. Socio-economic rationality required the development of a national electrification plan. Therefore, since 1975 a campaign for listing all of the regions to be provided with electricity has been underway. The PNE, the National Electrification Plan, approved by the government in March 1978, underlined the fact that the increasingly substantial efforts made were to be directed toward the least favored regions of the country.

Referring again to the objective of the total electrification of the country, as set down by the National Charter, the goal established is a rate of national electrification of 98 percent (in terms of the number of electricity subscribers as a percentage of the number of family units).

Setting Priorities for Actions Taken

In the first place, this involved the determination to establish a balance between provinces and then between districts, which would direct the choices to be made toward the least favored regions. The second main line of policy adopted is that of electrification for the mass of the people. Using "the principle of the bunch of grapes," a clean sweep was begun: all localities affected must be provided with electricity as the campaign develops, in order to avoid subsequent cost over-runs. Then priority was given to the main municipal centers, to socialist villages, and to the service of points for pumping drinking water or irrigation for land development. In this direction the criteria permitting the establishment of priorities among the projected action programs were developed. In terms of the pace of electrification of the country, a new stage was begun. However, this speeding-up process must be sustained, because the task remaining is very large and of vital importance. In January 1979, 909,000 family units in 11,000 population centers still remained to be hooked up. As 62 percent of this population is concentrated in about 2,500 centers, the relatively small scale as well as the geographic distribution of the other localities nevertheless have some impact on the rate of advance and the cost of the work to be undertaken. Thus, 53 percent of the population and 24 percent of the remaining centers will involve a small number of hookups, of between 50 and 100 each, respectively. In this connection the case of Setif province has been mentioned where, out of 1,072 "villages" remaining to be electrified up to the present, there are 496 centers which do not have even 50 inhabitants each.

Where does the electricity come from? Is production sufficient in terms of the substantial total consumption envisaged? This second question immediately led to some responses in numbers which exclude any foreseeable limit in this direction, among those responding to our questions. Our country has about 30 percent reserve production capacity. Moreover, the future needs of domestic consumption are relatively less than those of present industrial usage. The principal centers of present production, thermal generators, are concentrated on the coastal fringe of the country: North Algiers, Bougarik, Annaba, Oran, etc. These plants produce electricity principally by burning natural gas, with the use of fuel oil principally to be found in the South, where hydroelectric power is only used on a backup basis. Electricity transmission takes place on 60, 90, or 220 kilovolt high tension lines (kilovolt equals 1,000 volts) which are directed toward the major points of consumption, where a first stage of transformation makes it possible to develop a charge of 30,000 volts, or 19,000 volts for urban networks. Here, after transmission of electrical current through a final MT/BT (medium tension to low tension) transformer, the distribution network extending to the subscriber begins. A final touch needs to be added to this descriptive summary: the devotion to duty of the SONEGAS personnel, for whom this work has its dangers.

During the past year the total effort made by the state has been particularly high: 620 million DA [Algerian dinars], compared to 480 million DA and 240 million DA in 1980 and 1979, respectively. On the basis of the needs of the provinces and the objectives of the National Electrification Plan, the levels of planned construction are determined, permitting the calculation of the financial proposals

required, which are submitted by SONEGGAZ to the supervisory ministry. Of course, projected construction follows the principles set forth by the plan, particularly the principles of regional balance and mass-scale electrification. Between 1980 and 1982 the rate of electrification of the province of Adrar should go up from 46 percent to 66 percent (with an average annual extension of 170 kilometers in the medium tension and low tension network), while the rate for Annaba province will go up less perceptibly, with an average annual extension of 40 kilometers in the network. To cite another example, that of Setif province, the construction planned for is in the order of 300 kilometers of extension in the network per year.

Quite often unknown to the public is a very important point: the choice of the localities to be provided within the framework of the financial appropriation earmarked for the province is in no way within the competence of SONEGGAZ, which is limited to performing the roles of construction instrument and technical consultant. Although technical and economic guidelines are provided by SONEGGAZ, the decision, within the framework of the decentralization of power, is the sole responsibility of the local authorities. It is true that collaboration between the two authorities is required for the rapid and coherent progress of the National Electrification Plan.

A new momentum in the pace of construction has been recorded since the launching of this plan. Whereas the work done in 1978 permitted the construction of 1,500 kilometers of medium tension and low tension lines, the results have more than doubled by now to reach the level of 4,000 kilometers. This figure is expected to increase to 6,000 kilometers by the end of 1983. In many areas the efforts deployed have been substantial. For the implementation of the National Electrification Plan a Directorate of Electrification has been established, employing about 4,500 agents. Further, the expansion of this office into five regions of the country with a broad grant of autonomy will make it possible for each regional administrator to control all of the operations from the study stage until the construction activity, including transportation and supplies.

Another positive point: 80 percent of the material used is produced domestically. This point, valid as it is in terms of cost, should be tempered by the fact that imported items involve the products of the highest technology. Thus, transformers and insulators always come from abroad. Replacement of these items by SONELEC production is planned, which will make possible an almost total reliance on domestic manufacturing, but at a date still undetermined. Present SONELEC production relative to conductors and metal or reinforced concrete supports is carried on by SN-Metal [National Metal Construction Company] and ONAMHYD [National Hydroelectric Materials Office], while the relatively small number of wooden supports are imported.

Thus, substantial human, material and financial resources have been earmarked for the achievement of the National Electrification Plan whose cost has been estimated at 12 billion DA and whose completion should take place by 1990. For the first 3 years of the 5-year plan alone, it is estimated that expenditures will reach the impressive figure of 1 billion DA. The objective in sight (between 95 and 98 percent electrification) is considered to be equivalent to total electrification. There are very few countries which have achieved it.

Nevertheless, beyond the percentages, there will be less than one million people (nomads and isolated residents) who will not have electricity, even at the conclusion of this plan. In effect, it happens that the cost per kilometer of the network amounts to and is even in excess of 150,000 DA. In considering the range of possible solutions we have raised with the responsible authorities we have met the question of solar energy. However, the project for use of this form of energy has not yet reached the point of maturity, while the field of research remains characterized by a wide diversity of possibilities. Leaving aside eventual uses for heating or pumping water, solar energy does not seem to be a viable solution, according to the technical advice available, the more so as it would involve prohibitive costs in terms of the advantages derived. Other possible solutions include the fact that many rural people continue to use wind energy (with marginal results) and electrical generators whose cost varies between 40,000 and 50,000 DA. Going beyond the subject of electrification, in our view this is a matter of raising in a general way the problem of the kind of existence or the style and the living conditions of these marginal populations. In the last analysis would the solutions of regrouping and resettling them not also be considered?

To return to our original point, it should be underlined that our country has an electrification rate (63 percent at the end of 1980) whose level seems reasonable enough, compared to that of other developing countries. However, our development ambitions imply and provide for increasing our efforts even further, and the present pace of achievement of the National Electrification Plan aims at reaching our goal by the end of the 1980's. This effort involves in large part the achievement of the objectives of regional development and balance which have been reaffirmed and underlined by our political leadership.

5170

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BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS--Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign affairs minister, today received the credentials of 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i, the new Syrian ambassador to Bahrain. He also received the credentials of Nurver Nures, the new Turkish ambassador, and (Berti Ribani), the new Finnish ambassador to Bahrain. [Doha Qatari News Agency in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Oct 81]

SOMALI OFFICIAL CONVEYS MESSAGE--Manama, 30 Oct (GNA)--Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, today received Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre, who is currently visiting Bahrain. Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah attended the meeting. In a statement following the meeting, the Somali minister said that he had conveyed a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre to the amir of Bahrain on current Arab and African developments and bilateral relations. He said that they discussed the current Arab situation, recent developments regarding the situation in the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Horn of Africa and bilateral relations. The Somali foreign minister asserted that Somalia's policy regarding a solution to the Horn of Africa issue is based on granting the people of the Ogaden their right to self-determination. He said that Somalia seeks a just and peaceful solution to this issue. The Somali minister said that they also discussed the Middle East question and Somalia's firm stand on this matter--a stand that is based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He praised the stand of the amir of Bahrain and said: His Highness' stand and views are in full agreement with the contents of the message. [Text] [GF300916 Manama Gulf News Agency in Arabic 0745 GMT 30 Oct 81]

CSO: 4404/94

SADAT'S ASSASSINATION ASCRIBED TO U.S.-MUBARAK COLLUSION

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Oct 81 p 12

[Article by Seyyed 'Ataollah Mohajerani]

[Text] The death of Sadat does not appear to be a simple matter. It is obvious that when a man first heard of the death of Egypt's Pharoah, his heart filled with joy and hope blossomed there. On the one hand, a person heard that Sadat was shot when he was at the height of his vanity, drunk with power and covered with slime (!), while his various kinds of fighter planes filled the low skies of Egypt, while he stood shoulder to shoulder with Alfred Atherton, the U.S. ambassador, and U.S. generals were ranked behind him. Thus the spider's web, which is the frailest home, fell into pieces despite all his great calculations. The Egyptian people spilled into the streets stamping their feet and clapping their hands, and drivers turned on their headlights and honked their horns. Thus the United States has apparently lost another case and is stunned.

However, on the other hand, this was the same day (Tuesday, 14 Mehr) [6 October 1981] that news agencies spoke about Sadat's probable emergency successor before Sadat's accidental (!) death. On Tuesday, 14 Mehr [6 October 1981] the KEYHAN's last page in its Black Humor column said: "The United States chose Sadat's probable successor."

News from the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-NAHAR was quoted: "The United States government construes Husni Mubarak, Sadat's deputy, as his successor, and this theory is supported by Husni Mubarak's unexpected visit with Reagan, and the unanticipated warm reception he received from U.S. officials during his three-day stay in Washington." Therefore reports from the aforementioned sources confirmed the United States' interest in viewing Mubarak as Sadat's probable successor in emergency situations.

Husni Mubarak met with top-ranking U.S. officials, and on returning to Egypt said: "My discussions with Ronald Reagan, the president, and other high-level U.S. officials were devoted to the issues of the necessity of the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia, the urgency of military aid to Sudan, the Soviet Union's grab for the Middle East and Africa, and the right to self-determination of Palestinians residing in regions ceded to Israel."

Prior to the trip of the probable and emergency (!) successor to Sadat, quasi-criticism of Sadat was made in some newspapers which were "a sign so that he would not get lost."

AL-MAJALLAH, printed in London, wrote: "Egypt is also facing serious economic problems in addition to the complicated political problems which have reached their peak following the movements of Egypt's ruler towards Zionism and U.S. imperialism. The policy of normalizing relations between Egypt and the regime occupying Jerusalem has created a deep gap between most of the Egyptian people and the influential minority class. In addition to the aforementioned problems, Egypt is vexed with another problem which is returning to that country the Arab identity which puppet Sadat destroyed." The International Press Society also expressed anxiety over the restriction of the freedom of publication in Egypt. Peter Galinz, director of the society, expressed concern in a message sent to Sadat concerning both the unemployment and emigration of Egyptian correspondents.

Taken one by one, these signs are like aspirin, one of which can even soothe a man's headache, but when lined up together and 10 taken at once, might kill a man (!). Now you line up these signs and other indicators together, and add that when after Sadat's death the Egyptian people moved towards the embassy of the regime occupying Jerusalem, they found the streets leading to the embassy closed off, and that Husni Mubarak chaired a cabinet meeting in the dark atmosphere immediately after Sadat's death.

If we choose to be optimistic and to believe the best, the questionable trip of Husni Mubarak and Reagan's and his portentous speeches remain unexplained. And if we term the death of Sadat a U.S. plot, the idea is hard to digest and falls on deaf ears. After all, how is it possible that the United States could shoot its dearly loved, spoiled simian child? What is the heart of the matter?

Without any doubt the U.S. strategy is the greatest possible safeguarding of its interests and the neutralization or destruction of all the factors confronting or resisting it. These days the Americans have buckled on the sword and let the hawks take flight. Alexander Haig, the former NATO commander, has pivoted his diplomacy on the military domination and influence of the United States, and Reagan is attached to his military budget more than anything else. In the throes of such a flight, the bunker of resistance and struggle against the U.S. aggression and world-devouring is the Iranian Islamic revolution.

The wonder is that the Americans insist on raising the issue of Palestine and the regime occupying Jerusalem as the fundamental Middle Eastern issue in order to let the Islamic revolution of Iran fall into abeyance. It is interesting that in "King Fahed's" proposal, the third article concerning fundamental problems says that the United States should accept the Palestinian problem as the primary issue in the Middle East. It is also surprising that some Palestinian friends consider the Iraq-Iran war as a deviation from the fundamental struggle of the Palestinians against occupied Jerusalem!

It is not surprising that the United States does not see our revolution. The United States is a bat, and like a nocturnal creature that vilifies the sun, it vilifies the sun of the world. "Whose two eyes are blind, dark and bad." (Mulavi)

On the one hand the United States wants to expand its influence and power in the region, and on the other hand is planning to confine and hush up our Islamic revolution. The important and hope-inspiring issue is that the Iranian Islamic revolution is basically a cultural revolution whose essence is the transformation of mankind and

guiding it towards its divine nature. This revolution is aware of man inasmuch as he is human. Of course the stormy waves of the revolution will easily stir up the far shores of countries enshrouded in night. Today the transformation in the depths of the Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and...is clearly evident.

Since this movement derives from Islam's Abrahimic culture, as much as the agents of repression are materialistic and military, the enemy is grinding water in his mortar and ruining the pestle.

Kim Il-song, the leader of North Korea, said to our great brother Hashemi Rafsanjani: "We are fighting with the hands and feet of the United States, and you are fighting its heart." Without doubt the shout of "God is great" depresses the carefree heart of the United States.

One brother who has recently come from the United States said: "Americans have developed an allergy to "God is great." When they hear "God is great," they grind their teeth, and their teeth chatter. When in the Interparliamentary Conference the Iranian delegation's shout of "God is great," shook the conference and shattered the air, the Canadian representative said: "'It is horrifying!'"...In confrontation with "God is great," the U.S. secretary of defense says: "If an event similar to the Iranian Islamic revolution occurred in Saudi Arabia, due to this country's significance and the necessity of the government's survival, aid will be given to the Al-Saud regime in any shape Saudi Arabia wants and that the interests of the West demand." Reagan, despite the fact that he is told not to talk too much, says: "The United States will not permit Saudi Arabia to become like Iran."

In Sudan, after the uprising of the deprived Moslem people of Darfur province ended in bloodshed last January, following the people's steadfastness and the removal of the imposed governor, despite the continuous aid of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, \$300 million aid from Saudi Arabia, \$50 million aid from Reagan, and the presence of nearly 100,000 Egyptian intelligence and military officials in that country, the waves of "God is great" shattered the dividing walls, and the hearts of the deprived Sudanese people beat for the Islamic revolution and the imam. In its turn the government fell into such disgrace and deadlock that Nimeri all at once dissolved the People's National Assembly, and halved the present number of representatives in the parliament in anticipation of the coming elections.

In Tunisia, the leaders of the Islamic Movement, Rashid Ghanush and 'Abdufattah are tried, and in court let loose shouts of "God is great." Bourguiba nervously sets about strengthening the communists and outlaws the veil and...In Egypt girls put on the Islamic veil and the wave of arrests and imprisonment begins. The aware and enlightened blind clergyman, Sheykh Kushuk, sets about explaining things in the Friday prayer, and speaks to the Egyptian people about the Iranian Islamic revolution, the imam and "God is great," and is taken to prison.

In face of the fierce hail of the anthem of monotheism which has shaken the framework of the despotic governments, the Americans are struggling desperately and Sadat, like a pet baboon, takes refuge under the wing of his clown handler, and in his public disgrace shows himself as a friend of the United States. Egypt becomes so close to the United States, and after Camp David becomes so entangled in Israel that "Egyptisrael" comes into existence. What is interesting is that, to Sadat's misfortune, the closer he came to imperialism and Zionism and the more he planned the cultural and national values of Egypt, the brighter and more attractive the visage of the Iranian Islamic revolution becomes in Egypt.

The father of the liberals [Bazargan] once said: "The Shah is the leader of Iran's revolution (!), the negative leader of the revolution. Each revolution has a positive leader and a negative leader (!)". In the darkness of Sadat's corrupt visage, the Egyptian people discover and sense greater light, glory and freedom. The Americans believe that all the danger lies here. The situation soured to the extent that the Khan [the United States] understood that Sadat had become so Americanized that he had become the catalyst of the Egyptian Islamic revolution.

Sadat's presence speeded the blossoming of the Islamic revolution. These days the United States is searching for persons who in speech hold the most leftist positions in order to deceive the people, and in action hold the most rightist positions in support of U.S. interests.

Tossing off leftist songs and moving to the right like Saddam the American, like the hypocrite Rajavi...: in this manner, a fresh plot developed by the United States is exposed to public view. Incidentally, Husni Mubarak immediately after meeting with Reagan announces his positions and speaks about: 1-The necessity of selling the AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia; 2-The urgent need for military aid to the Sudan; 3-The Soviet Union's grab for the Middle East and Africa and: 4-The right of self-determination of Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied territories. In reality the above four issues are elements composing the U.S. strategy in the region. Meaning that the United States has opened up a new front, and wishes to fight on the new cultural (?) front with our revolution. There are other instances of this in the past. When AL-MAJALLAH writes: "Egypt in addition to economic problems is vexed with another problem and that is returning this country's Arab identity which puppet Sadat has not [sic] destroyed." An Arab identity is a question mark, for is it not a wall opposing the Islamic identity and the cultural revolution?

Sadat became a victim of U.S.-style cultural resistance and is now but a nightmare. Again, if this deduction is correct, this will once again move the Egyptian people, and blossoms of hope will bloom in their souls. The United States has fallen into a futile role which is doomed to destruction. It resembles that person who planted narcissus flowers in order to forget his memory of his mistress's eyes, and busied himself with his flowers. Then: "The narcissus buds bloomed fully, What sorrow! He saw they were his lover's eyes."

What a shame that a comparison for the United States must be drawn from mud and slime. Let us just say that that which they feared and dreaded has befallen them. The Americans want to extinguish the lightning lamp of "God is great," they want to build a wall, and there is no denying that Sadat was a good for nothing brick who had putrefied and decomposed. One becomes a pharaoh whom the Americans make a wax figure of their interests. The actions of the enemies of God, particularly those of the Great Satan, resemble a mirage that the thirsty man imagines to be water. These actions are also like the darkness in the depth of the ocean whose face has been covered by dark waves upon dark waves, with a low sky in the midst of all this darkness and corruption, covered over the voluptuously thick black clouds: in the midst of this, who can see the dark hand of Sadat and Reagan? If there is light in the world, it is the divine drunkenness; may the lamp of the lightning of "God is great" burn forever bright.

AWACS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA CRITIQUED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Sep 81 p 2

[Text] The U.S. Government has recommended that Saudi Arabia purchase five more AWACS (spy planes) like the four AWACS already sold to them. The Saudi Government is supposed to pay \$8.5 billion to the U.S. Government for their value. It is obvious that the purchase of other military equipment in order to raise the operational capacity of the aforementioned AWACS has also been advised in that same memo of recommendation by the Great Satan, and the Saudi Arabian Government has purchased it.

The AWACS are in reality the United States' old Boeing 707 which is now called a spy plane by equipping it with electronic facilities as a means of controlling air events within a radius of 400 to 550 kilometers. It is obvious that the flight speed of these planes, for the above reason, cannot be more than 750 kilometers per hour.

What can the reason for the purchase of such planes by the Saudi Arabian Government be? Is it that only a great oil income can persuade a government to purchase equipment that perhaps is completely useless to it? The fundamental reason must be looked for in the footnote to Uncle Sam's (the Great Satan) memo of recommendation to our neighbor Saudi Arabia.

After the glorious revolution of the Iranian nation under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the occurrence of similar revolutions in other countries in the region, particularly monarchial countries, became probable on various grounds. The probability of such an occurrence, along with the preservation of Saudi Arabia's oil wells which nourish the industry and economy of the United States, could be the reason for this action. This is particularly true after the Iran-Iraq war, when the oil sales of these two countries during wartime reached a minimum as a result of damage arising from bombing of oil facilities.

It is certain that the AWACS planes cannot have a great effect on preventing a revolutionary occurrence. However, according to the U.S. recommendation, they might be able to warn the Saudi's sovereign government of the possibility of an attack or blowing up of Saudi Arabia's oil wells. This issue possesses an extremely great importance for the Saudi Arabian oil government. After the first verbal ultimatum of political personages concerning the blowing up of oil wells

in the Persian Gulf, the prevention of such explosions became necessary and urgent in accordance with the Great Satan's advice.

The matter does not end here since the U.S. Government has sent U.S. advisors special to these planes to Saudi Arabia to operate and maintain them. Only these advisors are capable of operating the planes and interpreting the information acquired. It is obvious that in these conditions, spying on other countries on the Persian Gulf littoral could be among the most important duties of the Great Satan's puppets.

Of course Israel and the regime occupying Jerusalem agreed to all these intentions, since a short time ago the U.S. Government took a group of Israeli Air Force experts for a 9-hour flight in order to show them the limitations and potentialities of this aircraft. Among the limitations, a view was expressed that due to the AWACS's slow speed, they could easily be hunted by the jets of the regime occupying Jerusalem if they came close to Israeli soil. Certainly other secret matters were exchanged of which the Saudi Arabian monarchy will not be informed; whatever they may be, they will be kept between the Great Satan and the regime occupying Jerusalem.

The interference of the Zionists and the Israeli Government does not stop here. We must instead search for the deep roots of Zionist interference in the U.S. Congress and government. The Congress is really the national consultative assembly composed of representatives of the U.S. people from the various states. The representatives' duties are the examination of bills and political, economic, financial and budget matters, or to say it otherwise, fundamental decision-making concerning the American nation's destiny in the state-federal framework.

If a person is going to be capable of being elected as a state representative to the Congress, he must possess great fame in the state from the financial aspect (either wealth or connections with large companies). Failing this, an individual possessing greater wealth will be elected as the congressional representative. In these conditions, it is totally clear how the Zionists, who have the entire U.S. financial (banks, the stock exchange and so forth), propaganda and educational systems in their hands, can have a fundamental and determining role in the congressional elections.

It is for this reason that whenever the Israeli Government wishes to reject or approve a proposal (even a proposal of the U.S. president) in the U.S. Congress, this is accomplished with just a sign. As examples we can take the rejection of airplane sales to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and the approval of military equipment sales to Israel and other friends. Since the U.S. Government must gain a majority of votes in the two houses (Congress and Senate) for all decisions of this sort, the new secret sale of U.S. AWACS to Saudi Arabia's government might thus be defeated by new rumors from U.S. congressional representatives.

A number of U.S. congressional representatives reason that it is extremely difficult for them to accept the speech that Zeki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian minister of petroleum, made once in the spring of this year. In this speech he said that the fundamental enemy of Saudi Arabia is the Israeli Government, not the Soviet Russians. Thus what greater proof is necessary for the rejection of the proposed

sale of complex electronic military equipment to Saudi Arabia? Particularly in light of the rumors of opposition heard in the corners of Saudi Arabia, since it is possible that one day the AWACS will fall into that land's revolutionaries as did Iran's Phantoms.

Now all the decision-making is in the hands of the U.S. Congress' representatives who are the puppets of U.S. Zionists, and not in the hands of the U.S. president or representatives of the U.S. Government.

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CSO: 4640/28

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON VISIT TO LIBYA

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Sep 81 p 12

[Text] Engineer Mir Hosseyn Musavi, foreign minister, participated in an exclusive interview with JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI's correspondent, and answered questions concerning his recent trip to Libya and the achievements of this trip.

Our correspondent began by raising a question concerning the Islamic Front against the Zionists, and the proposal of such a front in the Conference of Arab Steadfastness Front Leaders during his recent trip to Libya. Engineer Musavi stated in response:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We carried a plan and principles with us concerning an Islamic Front. Of course this was not an organized plan, but rather was principles on the basis of which we believed that this front must be organized. Because the Libyan government had previously expressed an interest in this area, they has also prepared a plan which had several principles and held a somewhat organized aspect. Their plan could be studied. Naturally there were differences, but these differences did not seem to be such that the two governments of Iran and Libya could not pursue the issue.

The issue of an Islamic Front was raised extensively at the conference (I say extensively because I raised the issue in the speech that I made, and I also did some groundwork at the 'Omar Mokhtar commemoration ceremony). Beyond this, the issue was also raised in the private sessions, and was also brought up by Libya in the secret sessions of the Steadfastness Front.

Libya's Basic Agreement with Islamic Front Plan

The extensive raising of the Islamic Front issue caused a favorable atmosphere to be created there, and the issue was pursued with seriousness. Several countries (I do not want to say all) agreed with the plan in a preliminary fashion.

The Libyan government agreed with the plan in a fundamental way. It was determined that all those countries that accepted the issue in a preliminary manner will put it under study. However, Iran and Libya will seriously pursue the issue during their future meetings. Prior to these meetings, they will begin to expand the plan on the basis of the plans they have defined, and we will do the same in Iran. Meaning we will expand the plan. I think that this groundwork will definitely help us to make very rapid steps towards the Islamic Front. By the word 'rapid' I do not mean

to be understood that in order for this matter to be achieved as soon as possible, we will sacrifice principles. However, in the introduction to this plan, whose principles we shall announce in two or three days, we stated that if one country becomes a forerunner in the front's formation, and has sincerely cooperated with several liberation organizations, and has gotten organized, then the primary nucleus of this front has come into existence, and naturally it can grow. We stated in the introduction at the same time that the announcement of the Islamic Front is in itself a form of action. It is like a seed that you sow. Due to the favorable field which exists among all the world's Moslems, this seed grows, sprouts, gets big and bears fruit in places where man had no expectation it would do so. Of course in the few months since this issue was proposed we have tested this issue. Bringing up this slogan has made many fields of connections available. It has given our foreign policy vis-a-vis Islamic countries a direction to the extent that it is clear to us in what direction we are moving. Having a direction, having a goal, moving toward a defined goal greatly affects our kinds of activity in the foreign ministry. God willing, with the all-out support that it will receive, this plan will succeed and move forward in the future.

Cooperation with the Steadfastness Front

Our correspondent asked: What continued cooperation do you see with the Steadfastness Front? The foreign minister replied: Of course you know that we were officially invited by Libya as an observer. When the conference officially opened, Qadhdhafi made a speech. We were the first speaker after that. Then the secret session began in which only leaders were present. Just as we have announced many times, we will support the struggle that the Steadfastness Front has against Zionism and imperialism. This trip enabled us to meet one by one with the leaders of these countries. In the private session these brothers invited us to travel to their countries (Syria, South Yemen and Algeria). Thus the foundation of cooperation with these countries of the Steadfastness Front was built, meaning the ground was prepared.

Some News Agencies Spread Lies

Our correspondent asked Engineer Musavi: Some news agencies reported that Qadhdhafi spoke in the midst of your speech, and interrupted it. Please explain this event." Engineer Musavi responded by stating: This is a pure lie, and the matter was absolutely not like this. Our talk was complete and was carried out in a proper situation. Afterwards in the sessions we had, even before the private session was convened, Hafez Al-Assad praised that speech in a news correspondents meeting (meaning he praised our clear position-taking, the talk that we made, and the analysis we gave in this area). There were prolonged periods when the Steadfastness Front had no meetings. These recent sessions were opened with a special splendor, and with the presence of correspondents and various delegations, etc., and it is natural that the country holding the conference should make the opening speech. Qadhdhafi made this speech (and I see that unfortunately this speech was not reported in Iran), large portions of which concerned defending Iran's Islamic revolution, showing the truthfulness of the revolution, and furthermore glorifying Islam's martyrs. I take this to mean that our logic is a transparent, natural logic, and that all the world's oppressed understand this powerful logic, and that this logic is known and understood all over the globe. The speech after this was to be given by us, and we

immediately began our speech after Qadhdhafi had spoken. The speech was fully completed and was then translated into Arabic. When the speech was completed, the official order of business was that I and all the delegations should leave the session because it would be secret and restricted to the leaders of the Steadfastness Front Leaders Conference. After our speeches were finished, and we had said "The Future Is Certain" and finished the last of our speech with this Koranic verse, our delegation naturally rose. Qadhdhafi gestured that he wanted to say something. This speech, whose text was printed in ALFAJR AL-JADID (Libyan newspaper) and by news agencies, once again contained glorification of the Islamic revolution of Iran, and thanked us for our speech. But he did raise two or three points. One of these was a wish that Iraq could have been there and that we could have heard its speeches. The tone of this speech was more in defense of us meaning that it did not have the attitude of justifying Iraq. Then he was upset over the expression the 'Persian Gulf' which we had alternatively termed the Gulf or the Persian Gulf (Persian Gulf was used twice). The reason for this is natural because it was a 100 percent Arab conference, and there is such a sensitivity existing there. Whether because of this sensitivity or something else, he stated that it would have been good if you (we) had not used this expression. This is a phrase connected with the former regime, and when you do this, you give an excuse for "Iraq's aggression." If this is looked at carefully, there is an implicit condemnation of Iraq. Qadhdhafi said a few sentences in this area, and then immediately added that he proposed that the speech of Iran's foreign minister be considered an official document of the Steadfastness Front and be recorded. This meant that its contents (which included an attack on Iraq, the precise analysis that we gave of the functioning of imperialism and Zionism in the region, and the statements about the truthfulness of our revolution) were adopted as an official document of this front and were implicitly supported.

Naturally, in that situation, when those remarks were finished, we had to rise. We rose and all the rest, even the delegations and the correspondents came out of the hall so that the delegations of the Steadfastness Front could begin their secret session among themselves. It was at this time that the news was broadcast. The intention behind the broadcast of this news is completely clear, which was to take away the chance for our repeated meetings and closeness with friendly countries, and probably to create conflict. Since if a misunderstanding has been created, a strong blow could have been struck against the future relations of Moslem countries in the region. Thus it was natural that this propaganda and lie-spreading should have started. One agency in particular said that I had said that the war was one between Arabs and Persians. This is a pure lie. We do not even say this inside our own country whose people are Iranians. Still less would we say that this was a war between Arabs and Iranians in an Arab country in the midst of an Arab conference. It is clear that this news was complete nonsense. Or they said that Qadhdhafi interrupted our remarks, which is also a lie, and a devilish lie. I must say that my speech was fully completed without pause. In addition, I was reading two or three paragraphs, and then they were translated paragraph by paragraph. The translator translated this, and the speech was completely finished. This was another lie that the news agencies spread. On the next day when we had meetings with leaders, the news agencies saw that not only were relations continuing, but were doing so in a special way (for example, private sessions, intimate meetings and such like), and they realized that they had made a big mistake in making such a big lie. The news agencies immediately cut out and eliminated this news. However, the news apparently got out late and was brought up again, which is why the subject had the form it did.

Discussions with Libyan Leaders

Concerning his talks with Libyan leaders, Engineer Musavi stated: We had numerous sessions with Libyan leaders, including Qadhdhafi, several with Jalud, and one or two with the foreign minister and with officials of their revolutionary congresses. In all these meetings, in proportion, we examined relations between our and Libya's government and arrived at an agreement. Areas for expansion of these relations were set up, and we raised our viewpoints concerning regional issues, including Israel, the United States, Afghanistan and the like. In some places these views were shared, and naturally in some places there were disagreements, but they were accompanied by a complete and brotherly understanding. I think that a very good, stable and strong area for the continuation of these connections was created, on the basis of which we can form our relations with Libya and move forward. Among the special matters which were examined in these talks were means of organizing the Islamic Front. This was discussed several times, and God willing other issues in this area will be broached in the future.

The foreign minister, concerning his meetings with leaders belonging to the Steadfastness Front, said: We had encounters and talks with these leaders at the 'Omar Mokhtar memorial service and at other places. As I pointed out, we had a quasi-private session with these leaders. This session was before the official announcement of the declaration. As I sensed Mo'amar Qadhdhafi had arranged it, the cameramen and correspondents were at the front when Hafez Al-Assad began to speak. His speech defended and praised the Iranian revolution. Then the private session began. There were only leaders in it, and it was convened for Iran's sake. All the leaders defended and praised Iran's Islamic revolution. The leadership of the imam was spoken about in some detail. Then questions were raised about Iranian issues, regional issues and our viewpoint concerning them. There were questions and answers about them, and my explanations were such that the session was relatively lengthy. Then the session ended and we came out. Just as I pointed out, it was in this session that the brothers expressed a desire that I should travel to their countries (Syria, Algeria and South Yemen) for more elaborate and extensive discussions.

Our correspondent asked: "When will your trip to these countries take place?" He stated in reply: I think we will travel at the first opportunity. This is because on these trips points of view are usually expressed concerning shared issues. Shared points cause sound relations to be laid down, and thoughts are exchanged concerning disagreements.

Thus thoughts are brought closer to each other. Naturally this type of encounter can help Moslem countries come closer to each other, and can help our overall policy which is the creation of an Islamic Front across the globe.

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PROSECUTOR-GENERAL COMMENTS ON UNREST, 'RIOTS' IN SCHOOLS

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 27 Sep 81 p 14

[Text] Hojatoleslam Rahani Amlashi, Prosecutor General of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a special interview with our reporter, answered his questions about recent assassinations and different small groups of hypocrites.

The first question of our reporter was about Mas'ud Kashmiri and the explosion in the prime minister's office. The prosecutor general answered:

"Kashmiri was an influential person in the prime minister's office. He was previously working in other places and different fields of a revolutionary nature until finally he reached the prime minister's office and the secretary of the security council, and he was in charge of other important jobs. On the day of the explosion, he had left a briefcase containing the explosives near the desk of Martyr Raja'i and Martyr Bahomar. The participation of Kashmiri in such a meeting was ordinary and he had left the prime minister's office a few minutes earlier. Meanwhile, Kashmiri's wife has escaped." Accepting the Repetance of Hypocrites it was asked: "A number of supporters or members of Mojahedin-e Khalq have telephoned the newspaper and are saying: Before they were in favor of Mojahedin-e Khalq and had been involved in activities with them too, but their hands are not bloody and they have not participated in anyway in sabotage or in setting fire and have quit altogether political activities which favor that organization. On the other hand, they are not willing to participate in radio or television interviews or write letters of repentancy. What rules do the country's authorities have in mind for these individuals?"

The Prosecutor General answered: "Those who are not willing to participate in interviews or write repentant letters have not yet repented; the one who is repentant and delivered from bad deeds means he has realized those activities deviated and were wrong and has reverted. Having realized his mistakes he must declare it. That is called political repentance and political repentance must be exposed to public opinion and it must be clear to the people that a person who has been a deviator up to now, has been reformed. If they want to do it secretly then it is quite clear that by claiming to be reformed they want to escape from legal punishment, and are sticking to their past thoughts and opposing Islam and Moslems.

Those from these groups who have reverted from deviation and repented have to prove it to the authorities and for the time being the only way to prove it, is to be interviewed on TV and proclaim it to the people that they repented and give their information to the responsible authorities and prevent the people from committing

these devious deeds. If this occurs, then the judicial authorities will be convinced that they have repented and have surrendered, but if they are not willing to give interviews and do not admit they have deviated and are not willing to insult the authorities of that organization in spite of noticing how they trick the people and how they draw a peaceful country to corruption and how they propagate terrorism in the country, we cannot believe they have repented."

Other Groups

It was asked: "Those who were active a year or a year and a half ago and have given up all the activities; is it necessary for them to introduce themselves or to write a repentant letter?"

Hojjafoleslam Rabani Amlashi answered: "Those, like the others, if they are repentant should prove to the judicial authorities that they have repented and give their information and tell the people that they have made mistakes in the past. If they prove it and surrender, they are free, but if this matter is not proved, even if they stop their intense activities for a few days, we can't stop and wait until they start again, and then start action. The judicial power is responsible, in addition to eliminating corruption, for making efforts to prevent the origin of corruption and its existence."

Malicious Behavior and False Reports

It was asked of the prosecutor-general: What if based on malice or a dispute, someone makes a false report to the responsible authorities and causes the arrest of an innocent person? What steps have been taken by the judicial authorities in connection with this matter?"

He answered: "Of course it is possible, but what can be done? In such a sensitive time when the destiny of our nation is being forged, we see a group of terrorists standing everywhere and they are willing to do everything. In such a situation the whole world and our nation might give the right for judicial authorities to be alert. If an innocent person remains in prison one month or two months more or less, or a few days, for the clearance of his situation, isn't it better or should the blood of 70 or 80 thousand martyrs be trampled? There is no doubt we have to respect the blood of martyrs in order to protect and guard this country and to block the passage of foreign agents to this country; we have to bear these entanglements. Those who have such difficulties, if they are concerned Muslims and are interested in the destiny of this country without regard, must not be annoyed about these matters. These mistakes exist in every day life and have existed in our own private lives and in our society. These problems might happen unintentionally to any human being, and is not the fault of the authorities! The officials do not base their findings upon a neighbor's reports one hundred percent. They go and investigate. If they find the report true, they hold the arrested, if it was false and a mistake they set him free and this is unavoidable. They must remain there, until the officials conduct the investigation, what else can be done? Is there any other way except this? If there is any better way then say it and we will do it."

The Increase in Investigators

It was asked: "Can't the plaintiffs case be studied sooner by increasing the number of investigators?"

The Prosecutor-General said: "That's right, if its possible to increase the number of investigators we don't deny the possibilities we have; of course you know we have inherited a Satanic government. In the past, the trained investigators and judges who could serve in the revolutionary courts were not prepared enough, and we are not quite prepared for this job. For the time being we don't have enough investigators and inspectors in the Revolutionary Public Prosecutor's offices, but those we have, always use any opportunity they have to meet the people's demands immediately and God forbid that no innocent remain in prison. Of course, you must be reminded that the claims are seldom the reality. I have seen many parents, many families, and many friends claim that such and such arrested person is innocent, but when we contacted the public prosecutor's office, it became clear that the accused had confessed that such a book or arms have been his, but family and friends are usually more Catholic than the Pope. I don't say that an innocent is never arrested but the percentage is very low."

Riots in Schools

The next question was: "These days the members of small anti-regime groups are trying in any way possible to engage the schools in riots and close them down. How can the country's judicial system confront them?"

Hojatoleslam Rahani Amlashi answered in regard to this question: "First, their effort in the face of the nation is a vain effort. They wanted to organize marches in the streets. They were thinking that they will be able to organize a one million or two or three million person march. For a few days they came out and they realized that their numbers didn't exceed more than twenty or thirty whom they brought from their hideouts. They came in the streets and shouted a few slogans and realized that even two people from the outside didn't join them. According to them, they thought they could organize a vast demonstration. They came and comprehended that the people really don't want them. They are besieged by their own limitations. Their numbers don't exceed more than those limited few from the underground, hideouts and their communes and it is possible that many of those have been entrapped and want to leave the group, but if caught they have to face revolutionary execution and really, some of them are faced with this obstacle. If they remain, they don't know what to do, to leave is not possible, maybe impossible for many of them to do. In any case, they can never be able to close the schools, to engage the schools in strikes. The march of the first of September showed the people that these are our children and Islam's children. These are the pro-government and Islam partisans. How could one resist them? The judicial power will face them severely and without pity. To pity them means to have mercy for a sharp-toothed tiger, it means to fight against the oppressed and long suffering nation which is delivered from the chain of depotism. This act means to close your eyes to the blood of 70 thousand martyrs and we will never give permission to have mercy on them. We face them decisively."

It was asked: "The Prosecutor-General has announced that he has executed few of those who had a part in the incident of 7 July and meanwhile Takmil Homayun, Entezaryun, and Bani-Sadr have been among those who participated in this heart-rendering event. Will you give further explanation about this incident?"

The Prosecutor-General of the Republic of Iran answered: "I don't have enough information but according to the information collected from Entezaryun, it indicated that they have been involved. We knew beforehand that Bani-Sadr was such a fierce

wolf and is not afraid of anything. It is not unexpected to me that Bani-Sadr has been involved in such a monstrous catastrophe. He is exactly like the Shah was, seeking position and power, like the Shah who was saying one million people should be killed. Some have quoted him that half of this country be demolished but I remain, we knew Bani-Sadr as such. We were aware of such a feeling in him, even when he was talking firm and decisive, we knew he didn't have the nation. It was with such a feeling for him, that I was saying that he has the backing and encouragement from somewhere and he definitely had a great deal of assurance. Those days, I didn't know the source of this encouragement and its circumstances, but later it became evident that they had influential agents in these centers, and they were assured that they could eliminate us with these influential agents. They were imagining that with the elimination of seventy or more persons in the party and a few others in the prime minister's office and a few in the Revolutionary Public Prosecutor's office, that the country would collapse and vanish and they would rule a devastated country. They didn't know that if they martyrize any number of authorities, we have the nation, we have this rising heroic nation and as long as this rising heroic nation exists it is impossible for foreign puppets to rule this country. This is a vain and false thought."

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CONSTRUCTION CRUSADE REPORTS PROGRESS DURING WAR

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Oct 81 p 8

[Text]

In the Name of God, the Protector of the Oppressed

The Construction Jihad is one of those foundations which have emanated from the midst of the people in the course of the Islamic Revolution and it has played a remarkable role alongside other organs and foundations in advancing the sublime goals of this revolution.

It has rendered many services in various fields in both cities and villages. The people and the government should assist this ever-advancing foundation so that it will be able to increase its activities. We see it suitable in this connection to present a report of the year-long services of the Construction Jihad of Abadan and tell a part of the story of the self-sacrifice and devotion of those Muslim committed youths who while believing in the Islamic Revolution have fulfilled their duty towards this revolution and are working day and night under the rain of the enemy's mortar shells and bullets, in sweltering weather over 40 deg. Centigrade hot, without feeling the least pain and with special faith and enthusiasm. The following report is a summary of the activities of these crusaders of Islam.

Road Construction Committee

Following the outbreak of the war imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime and the movement of the technical equipment and facilities of the Construction Jihad to the war fronts, the activities of this

committee decreased in villages and instead the Construction Jihad was entrusted with the execution of engineering and technical operations in the war zones.

The activities which have so far been carried out by the Road Construction Committee of the Construction Jihad of Abadan are as follows:

1. The digging of trenches and the embankment of earth for artillery and mortar stations along the entire fronts of Abadan and Khorramshahr.

2. The digging of a 4 kilometer-long and 5 meter-wide moat between Abadan and Khorramshahr, at the time of the enemy's occupation of Khorramshahr.

3. The laying of a 28 kilometer long connecting road.

4. Construction of trenches and embankments for the movement of infantry forces and their equipment.

5. The laying of roads under the rain of the enemy's bullets and mortar shells.

6. Construction of the Martyr Shahshahani Road with the cooperation of the Construction Jihad of Isfahan, the Construction Jihad of Fars and the Engineering Unit of the IRGC.

7. Driving vehicles out of the marshy roads of Abadan and Khorramshahr (some 50 vehicles everyday). During these operations, many heavy machines of this committee broke down.

8. The levelling and repair of 5 kilometers of roads.

9. Repair of a kilometer of a road in the Kutsheikh front and a kilometer of road in the Mared front.

10. Embankment of 5 kilometers of roads and the ballasting of another 1.5 kilometers of roads in the fronts.

11. Cooperating with the Engineering Unit of the IRGC and other government foundations in constructing roads through supplying them with technical facilities.

Electricity Supply and Upgrading

1. The wiring and repairs of some offices, foundations and hospitals.

2. Cooperation with the repair shops for repairing vehicles in the fronts.

3. Repairs of high voltage networks in the Khosrow Abad Road, Tankefa, the 12th Station, Ta'yyeb Square, the 7th Station, and Jamahid Abad.

4. Construction of an 11,000 voltage network.

5. Cooperation in unloading raw materials, oil, and fuel from the Abadan Refinery.

6. Supply of fuel to rural homes, armed forces and some government institutions as well as the fuel needed by villagers for their motor pumps in the Abadan region, up to a few months after the beginning of the war.

7. Active cooperation in constructing the Chuideh Terminal.

8. Active cooperation with the Electricity Department of Abadan.

9. Active cooperation in clearing goods from customs in Abadan and Khorramshahr.

Rural Cooperative Committee

Before the outbreak of the war, this committee used to supply provisions to villagers. Even for five and a half months after the war this committee was carrying out this job in spite of the extraordinary gathering of the war-stricken people of Khuminsahr and the villagers of border regions, in regions which are rather far from the range of the enemy's fire.

Although this committee did not have sufficient power and facilities before the war and the refugee problem also aggravated the existing problems and shortages, it managed to supply the fuel consumed by houses and the motor pumps of villagers.

But due to the prolongation of the war and the necessity of providing the urgent and fundamental needs of the fronts and also the formation of a headquarters particularly responsible for the issues of the war zones, the member brothers of this committee thought it better to exert all their efforts in making individual and group bunkers of concrete and also shelters throughout the city. They are still busy building more trenches and shelters which have played an important role in securing the lives of our dear warriors.

Agricultural Committee

In spite of the many problems which have been brought about as a result of the imposed war and the lack of sufficient facilities, this committee has tried its best in fulfilling the needs of villagers and on the whole it has rendered the following services:

1. The supply and dispatch of fertilizers, seeds insecticide and motor pumps to farmers and also the dusting of crops with pesticides.

2. Collection and purchase of livestock from villagers and forming a number of cattle breeding complexes in order to support the country's animal husbandry.

3. Transportation of cattle from the war zone to the safe regions outside Abadan.

4. The supply of livestock feed to villagers.

5. Examination and treatment of wounded cattle.

Transportation Committee

1. Entrustment of 150 vehicles to the Army and other foundations through the Transportation Committee of the Construction Jihad of Abadan.

2. Transportation of provisions from Chu'ideh to the city and fronts.

3. Conveyance of furniture from damaged houses to safe places and the transportation of the citizens of Abadan out of the city.

4. Transportation of flour from mills to the bakeries of the city which are still operating.

5. The carrying of equipment from banks, post offices and all government offices to safe regions.

6. Transportation of the villagers' farm produce out of Abadan.

7. Transportation of jet fuel from Abadan to safe places.

8. Transportation of computers and telex machines from the Abadan Airport.

9. The complete unloading of fuels (including gasoline and oil) from the Abadan refinery and taking them to regions where they are used. The carrying of the technical and heavy equipment of the refinery out of Abadan.

10 The clearing of the Abadan Customs which was carried out firstly to prevent the recurrence of the Khuminsahr Customs calamity, secondly, due to the urgent need of the military forces for spare parts in order to repair their vehicles in the fronts, thirdly, to prevent the profiteering of the owners of the goods who would have undoubtedly moved their goods from the customs and presented them to the free market at unreasonable prices and this movement would have caused an increase in the level of prices which would have entailed many problems for the war-stricken, and fifthly, in order to avoid the burning of goods in the customs and the port which would most probably be destroyed by fire, otherwise.

11 The carrying away of broken and damaged vehicles from the city and its suburbs.

12 Transportation of electricity generators from Chu'ideh to the city.

13 The carrying of prefabricated trenches to various fronts.

14 Transportation of the goods possessed by the National Oil Company from Khuminsahr to Chu'ideh.

15 The carrying of the fuel needed by the poultry farmers in the Minu Island and the 12th Station of Abadan.

Water Supply Committee

In the early days of the imposed war, due to the unexpectedness of the war and the comprehensive participation of popular forces the task of supplying the fronts was mostly put on the shoulders of the people and some organizations emanated from the midst of these people under duress.

In order to fulfill the fronts' urgent need for water and the establishment of water supply facilities, this committee had to gather tank trucks from all over the city for supplying water to the fronts of Khuminsahr.

After the enemy laid siege to Khuminsahr, this committee's work was multiplied and in spite of lacking necessary facilities, it exerted its utmost effort in providing water for the fronts of Abadan and Khuminsahr, bakeries, bathhouses and even some offices (at the beginning of the war) and after a while, when the Water Department of Abadan resumed supplying water to the city, this committee provided water to the villagers and remote places and even to the livestock gathered from the whole region in ranches.

Due to the enemy's bombardment of Abadan in the course of the war the urban water network was cut off in some parts of the city. But this committee compensated for the shortage by installing 20 water reservoirs at the IRGC garrison, the premises of Construction Jihad, the Office of the Red Crescent Society, the Coastal Guards Garrison and the Training Garrison of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and also by laying pipes and fixing the

valves of tanks which were sent to the fronts.

Meanwhile, 4 water tanks, each with a capacity of 22,000 liters were sent to the villages around Abadan and the city's damaged bathhouses were repaired and supplied with new pipe. Among the other activities of this committee are: the installation of several water coolers in hospitals and other foundations, construction of several bathrooms for the foundations and the supply of pipes to several bakeries which were damaged by the enemy's bombardments.

In addition, this committee was supplying gasoline to all foundations, government offices, and some military forces for a few months after the outbreak of the war.

It is noteworthy to say that only 12 persons are working in this committee.

Building Committee and Welding Group

The Building Committee has managed to carry out the following activities with the cooperation of a welding group:

1. Fabrication of 230 stationary and movable water reservoirs with capacities ranging from a few hundred liters to several thousand liters.

2. The construction of a bathhouse in the Minuhi region, near Abadan, and also a cooperative in the Bahmanshir Village, with the cooperation of brothers working in the office of the governor of Arvandkenar.

3. Cooperation in producing and repairing doors, windows, stairs, barrels, water reservoirs and fencing the buildings of the military forces, revolutionary foundations and other government offices all over the city of Abadan.

4. Construction of several buildings of the Construction Jihad and active cooperation in clearing the customs and refinery of Abadan.

5. The equipping of military and public vehicles with security bars.

Health Group

This group has embarked on carrying out the following activities with the cooperation of several sisters and brothers as well as a physician:

1. Formation of relief teams consisting of volunteer sisters and brothers for emergency cases.

2. The holding of classes to instruct the people in first aid.

3. Dispatch of medical teams to villages which have treated more than 23,300 patients.

4. Disinfection of villagers' houses and trenches in the city and on the fronts.

5. Taking those patients who needed to be hospitalized to the city and returning them to their villages after recovery.

6. Treatment of the member brothers of various organs and foundations particularly in the early days after the war.

7. Collection of scarce provisions for the cattle.

8. The re-opening of several rural clinics which had been closed after the war.

9. Distribution of chlorine to some villages.

10. Distribution of milk and nursery bottles throughout the city and a number of villages around Abadan.

Explanation: The responsibility of constructing individual and group bunkers was assigned to the Building Committee after the Cooperative Committee. This committee constructed 12 group bunkers and delivered them to the army.

Cultural Committee

1. The showing of films in various parts of the city, everyday.

2. The staging of plays and holding exhibits of books, posters, photos and tapes.

3. The printing of special materials and forms for the army and other military organs.

4. The printing and reproduction of posters of the martyrs and a publication entitled "Message from the Front".

5. Photographing and filming of the fronts and also various parts of the city.

6. The holding of congregations for offering the "Komeil" prayers.

7. Photographing and filming of the fronts and also various parts of the city.

8. The holding of congregations for offering the "Komeil" prayers.

Repair Shop of the Construction Jihad of Abadan

The services of this unit are as follows:

1. The repair of approximately 50 vehicles.

2. Repairs of some arms of the army.

3. Repairs of the entire pool of the vehicles belonging to the Army, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and other government organs and offices and even the civilians who were going to leave Abadan.

4. The supply of the whole spare parts of vehicles by the Army, IRGC and other government organs in the Abadan front.

5. Fabrication of some arms and instruments severely needed in the fronts.

6. Repairs of damaged war spoils captured from the enemy.

7. The invention of silencers and also apparatus for increasing the range of machine guns.

In addition all these activities were carried out despite the lack of skilled manpower and spare parts.

Miscellaneous Activities Of the Jihad

1. Active participation of the members of the Construction Jihad of Abadan in the operations of the Mobilized Forces and also the security forces. During these operations, 14 brothers of the Construction Jihad were martyred and two others were taken captive by the enemy.

2. Distribution of 150,000 sacks for making trenches in the city, border lines and the fronts.

3. Establishment of a gas station to supply fuel to military vehicles; which was later closed due to the self-sufficiency of the army and other organs in this regard.

The number of the martyrs, wounded and the captives of the Construction Jihad up to the Last Sept. 16 is as follows:

Martyrs: 14; Wounded: 10; Captive: 11.

STATE RAILROAD REPORTS ON TRANSPORT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Sep 81 p 2

[Text] NEWS SERVICE-From the beginning of the imposed war until now, the State Railroad of Iran has dispatched a total of 1,584 trains carrying military equipment and personnel to the various fronts.

An Iranian State Railway public relations spokesman made this announcement during an interview yesterday with JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI NEWS SERVICE reporter, and added: Approximately 350,000 army, Mobilization and Guards personnel have been transported and about one million tons of military equipment have been carried by box car.

Most of this activity was in the first six months of the war, which continued through the first half of Shahrivar [6 September 1980]. These activities took place at a time when Iran's railroad was in difficult straits from the standpoint of hauling power [engines] in the wake of the economic blockade. But by the efforts of concerned, committed and patriotic officials, those trains were dispatched, and in the end the army's satisfaction was secured.

At the same time, the transportation of needed goods, fuel in particular, and passengers can be added to the above activities.

Iran's railroad carried out its duties in the center and districts in these days by forming a mobilization staff which worked around the clock. It would be appropriate to mention the activity and effort of the southern railway district employees in forming trains and accepting them from the center under very difficult wartime conditions. Railroad personnel in the south, like other Ahwaz citizens, despite the savage bombardments of the Iraqi Ba'th government and the cowardly attacks of the Ba'thist army's artillery which regularly reached their place of work, continued their self-sacrificing activity and thus brought great pride to the railroad community.

2 - 303,293 railway ties and 1,036 boxcars were sent from various railroad districts to the war fronts to be used by the army and guards.

3 - Repair of the communications lines and signals and eliminating the continuous damage in the Khuzestan war zones in order to establish communications, which are considered a basic factor in the speed of train traffic in the war areas.

- 4 - Sending 75 vehicles to various war fronts, and dispatching volunteer railway vehicle drivers to various fronts.
- 5 - Constructing 18 kilometers of one-way road between Mahshahr and Abadan.
- 6 - Dispatch of two 10-ton water trucks, one loader, one grader, two bulldozers and one 10-ton compressor to be used for road-building in Mahshahr.
- 7 - Transportation of army and guard personnel from the Central Railroad Building to respective bases.
- 8 - Organizing three intensive training programs and sending 123 persons to the front by means of the Islamic Republic Revolution Guards stationed on the railroad.
- 9 - Cooperation with an unorganized Guard engineer unit by sending mechanics to Ahwaz.
- 10 - Hauling 79,600 tons of stone in 1,420 cars from Andishmak to Ahwaz to be used by the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Damage Inflicted by the Enemy

- 1 - A total of 193 kilometers of railway track was destroyed or damaged, 123 kilometers of which was main line and 70 secondary line.
- 2 - During the war, many residential and office buildings in war districts like Ahwaz and Khuninshahr, various buildings at stations between Ahwaz and Khuninshahr, and the Do Kuhah station were damaged to various degrees.
- 3 - On the Ahwaz-Khuninshahr line, 15 bridges existed. Due to the lack of accurate information it is imagined that most of them were heavily damaged.
- 4 - Communication devices and signals were damaged at some points, and at some other points which were exposed to heavy, direct attacks were completely destroyed.
- 5 - A number of the railway's moving stock, such as various freight and passenger cars and diesel engines which were stationed in the war zones, were damaged, but the total number was small.
- 6 - During the course of the war 14 persons from the railroad whom were dispatched to the various war fronts by the army, Guards and Mobilization attained martyrdom.
- 7 - In the bombardments of Ahwaz and Khuninshahr, in particular the railway facilities, a total of 18 railway employees and their families were martyred.

The Iranian Railroad in very sincere cooperation with the Red Crescent and the Reconstruction Crusade used 5 hospital cars to assist the wounded in the Khuzestan region. These cars had a total of 100 beds and were equipped with an operating room and other necessary medical equipment. These cars were sent a total of 15 times to the war districts of Khuzestan. In these cars a total of about 1,000 wounded or sick persons were treated or sent to treatment centers by doctors from the Red Crescent and the Reconstruction Crusade. One can also add 15 surgical operations to these figures.

In conclusion, one can also point out that 27 war victim railroad families were given housing in suitable areas.

RAMADAN REITERATES COUNTRY'S RIGHTS IN WAR WITH IRAN

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 28 Oct 81 p 5

[Text]

Mr Taha Yassin Ramadhan, member of Revolution Command Council and Commander-in-Chief of the Popular Army said traitors to the Arab Nation, who have sided with the Persian enemy, despite the enemy's covetous intentions and aggressions on Iraq, will end up like Sadat, traitor to the Arab nation.

Addressing another contingent of the Popular Army fighters from al-Karkh and al-Rasafa sector, Baghdad, on its way to join the battle front Mr Ramadhan added that Iraqi forces, backed by the Popular Army were now more capable and determinate, after 14 months of fighting to con-

front the Persian enemy and those who side with him, namely Imperialists and Zionists.

The war fought by Iraqi people, he continued was imposed by the Persian enemy to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and independence and the dignity of the Arab nation.

"He reiterated that Iraqi forces would continue fighting the enemy until they recognise Iraq's legitimate sovereignty over land and territorial waters.

A number of high ranking officers of the Popular Army were present at the farewell ceremony.

CSO: 4400/43

INCREASED TRADE TIES WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES SOUGHT

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 28 Oct 81 p 1

[text]

Multilateral cooperation between Iraq and the Council of Economic Cooperation of Socialist countries was discussed here yesterday by the joint committee representing the two sides.

Delegates of the member countries of (USSR, Bulgaria, Hungary, German Democratic Republic, Cuba, Romania, Poland and Czechoslovakia), and their Ambassadors to Iraq attended the sixth session meetings of the committee which were chaired by Iraq's representative and Chairman of the Committee Mr Mehdi Muhsin Auda, Trade Undersecretary. Economic experts representing the two sides also took part in the discussions covering economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

The committee will consider the development of cooperation in various fields covering oil and gas industries, agriculture and irrigation, industry and power generation, trade and transport, and technical, scientific cooperation.

The final recommendations and conclusions of meetings by five technical sub-committees examining further development of cooperation in these fields will be put before the committee.

In an opening address to the committee, the Iraqi delegate affirmed "Iraq's wish to develop economic and trade relations with friendly countries including the socialist states".

He added that Iraq worked for establishing strong and firm long-term relations with these countries which would serve mutual interests and common objectives.

He also affirmed the failure of the Persian war of aggression to halt or obstruct the progress of Iraq's large development programmes.

The German delegate in the committee, on the other hand, speaking on behalf of other member countries, expressed his appreciation of Iraq's efforts to provide the best circumstances for the success of the current session.

ID 240 MILLION IN BAGHDAD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 24 Oct 81 p 2

[Article by Akram Dhannoun]

[Text]

Development projects worth more than ID 240 millions have been undertaken by Amanat Al-Asima (the mayoralty of Baghdad) during the current year.

These related to services, tourism development and construction of residential blocks including an ID 40-million project for construction of residential blocks making up 2000 units at Saydiya area, south west of Baghdad.

Amanat Al-Asima is now implementing modern buildings at Haifa street costing ID 18 millions, schools, kindergartens, parking places at Kadhimiya and Kasra-w-Atash areas.

More buildings of multi-storey parking lots at Rasafi square, Bah Al Shaqi and Saadoun street, each with capacity to receive 600 cars.

A monument for the unknown soldier is now under construction at Zawra

park on the western part of Baghdad. The new headquarters of Amanat Al-Asima which will house all departments of the Amanat are being constructed at Khullani square.

The projects being implemented by Amanat Al-Asima include the construction of modern market places: five such market places, each occupying an area of 12,000 sq. meters, are now under construction. The area of each market place is surrounded by gardens and parking spaces. The five market-places are scheduled to be completed before the end of the year.

The Amanat is currently constructing a number of huge flyovers and uplifted freeways and bridges over congestion areas of the capital, as well as pedestrians passovers and tunnels. Several of these projects are expected to be completed before the end of current 1981.

Among other projects are these relating to improvement of the water supply in the capital. Amanat Al Asima has signed several contracts with international firms for implementation of, among others, the Karkh water supply project, a big project regarded as very vital in a major part of the city.

Other projects include the replacement of the entire piping network of the Baghdad city water supply system and the construction of 16 water storage tanks to be added to the existing four tanks.

Feasibility studies are now ready for the construction of 40 modern market places in different parts of the city, particularly those areas with high population density. A large market place at Zayouna and the complete reconstruction of the famous old Baghdadi market are projects scheduled to be started shortly.

RAILWAY PROJECTS DISCUSSED

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 26 Oct 81 p 2

[Article by Akram Dhannoun]

[Text]

Important railway projects are now under execution with the aim of assuring effective links between various Iraqi cities, towns and villages.

Electrically and magnetically operated trains will be introduced for the first time in the country to provide transport services for passengers and cargo side by side with existing standard modern trains.

The Chairman of the State Organization for Railways (SOR), Mr. Tareq Tawfeeq, told the Baghdad Observer reporter that several such projects were now in the execution stage and feasibility studies for other projects had just been completed. They would be announced for tendering soon.

Among these projects is the one-billion dinar Akashat railway project considered one of the significant strategic railroads in the country as it is designed to provide a direct servicing line between the phosphate mines of Akashat and Baghdad via Ramadi, Haditha and Qaim. The chemical fertilizers complex is situated there.

A two-track standard gauge line now links Baghdad to Ramadi. The new single-track line will run from Ramadi to link other points. The designs made it possible for future expansions as well as for operating electric locomotives.

The line's specifications will enable the state organization to operate passenger trains between Baghdad and Ramadi with an hourly speed of 250 kilometres and cargo trains with 160 kilometres per hour. The project involving improvements of the first line and the Akashat line is now being executed by a Brazilian company.

Another vital project which is under execution by an Indian company is a semi-circular railway line linking Musayyab, about 80 kms to the south of Baghdad, with Samawa passing through the provinces of Kerbala and Najaf.

The two projects, in the words of the SOR chairman, "are characterised by high international standard specifications, with high cargo capacity for trans-

sportation of various goods and raw materials between quarries, mines etc, processing centres and marketing centres. These specifications also enable us to employ the most up to date rail transport units and locomotives".

Mr. Tawfeeq added that high speed locomotives, passenger coaches and cargo containers of the latest types would then be operated to make the railway transport favourite means of transport for the socialist and private sectors as regards speed and low costs and high tonnage capability unrivalled by other means of transport.

Other projects already approved are: the Baghdad-Kirkuk-Arbil-Mosul-Zakho (two-track line), Kirkuk-Baiji to provide phosphate transport services from Mishraq to Qaim and Ramadi-Kerbala line. Other projects include Baghdad-Maqal (Basrah) line running parallel to the Euphrates river and another aiming to link Mar-

bed station (Basrah) with Kuwait. The last project which will secure a modern railway link, linking Mediterranean ports with the Arab Gulf ports will have a great strategic significance and economic and social advantages.

There are other railway projects whose feasibility studies and engineering documents were recently completed. The SOR is expected to announce them for tendering shortly. These include the Baghdad-Kut-Amara-Basrah and Kut-Nasiriya-Basrah as well as a project for modernisation and development of the central railway station to enable it receive as many as 120 trains each day.

Future plans of the SOR are for the operation of high speed trains such as the TGV locomotives whose maximum speed is 360 kilometres per hour and the magnetic locomotives with 500 km speed per hour. The plans include a major scheme for electronic controlled railway signal syst-

em and a list of other projects befitting the great development upsurge now taking place in the country.

Mr. Tawfeeq said that extensive expansion and modernisation work was going on over the three main railway lines running between Baghdad-Basrah, Baghdad-Mosul and Baghdad-Arbil which are passing through most of the Iraqi provinces. The expansions and modernisations aimed at improving existing transport capacities and improvement of services to passengers.

According to the SOR chairman, more modern locomotives, passenger coaches, cargo containers would soon be imported. A contract was recently concluded for the importation of 1300 cargo containers and another contract was also signed to import 82 electric-cum-diesel operated locomotives. The coming few days, a contract will be signed for the supply of 224 modern passenger coaches.

BRIEFS

IRAN'S ARAB SUPPORTERS WARNED--Baghdad, 27 Oct (INA)--Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan today emphasised that the Iraqi Army was now more determined and capable to confront the racist Persian enemy and those Arab, imperialist and Zionist traitors who back the enemy. Addressing a new batch of Iraqi popular army units (para-military) before leaving to the warfront today, Mr Yasin said the traitors of the Arab nation who back the racist Persian enemy will meet the same end as that of the nation's traitor Anwar al-Sadat. He reaffirmed that Iraq's war against Iran was a war of justice, as the Persian enemy had committed aggression against the sovereignty, dignity and independence of Iraq which was fighting on behalf of the entire Arab nation. Mr Ramadan saluted the popular army fighters and their role in backing and supporting the Iraqi Armed Forces in its almost 14-month old war. [Text] [JN271517 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 27 Oct 81]

OIL MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON OPEC--Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA)--Iraqi Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim returned home late last night from Geneva, where he attended a successful OPEC meeting that yielded a price agreement of \$34 per barrel for the first time in 2 years. Mr 'Abd al-Karim, who is a member of Iraq's highest executive body the Revolution Command Council (RCC), described the Geneva consensus as important and daring and said price unification was one of the most serious problems which faced the 13-member organization because of the chaotic situation prevailing over world oil markets. The Geneva meeting had agreed on restoring price unification of \$34 per barrel as from tomorrow till the end of 1982, he added. The \$34 price applies to the Saudi Arabian market crude of 34 point gravity, but the sweeter North African crudes of even lighter quality will be priced higher by \$2 to \$4 per barrel. Mr 'Abd al-Karim expressed hope that OPEC will undertake a similar step to cope with the existing oil glut in world markets which still threatens the pricing structure and OPEC's future. He also called upon OPEC's large producing countries to reconsider their current production levels in order to regain the balance of supply and demand in oil markets. The Iraqi oil minister said the Ministerial Committee, set up by the Geneva emergency meeting, had met on Friday to outline a strategic plan on the prospects of the oil industry, whether by adopting a long-term pricing policy or by discussing relations between industrialised and developing nations in general, for the sake of ensuring the required prerequisites of setting up the new international economic order that guarantees equity and equality among all concerned parties. [Text] [JN311140 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 31 Oct 81]

CSO: 4400/40

LOSS OF STRATEGIC STATUS IN UNITED STATES REPORTED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Aug 81 p 7

[Article by Dr Gabi Shefer]

[Text] With astounding alacrity, Israel is losing her principal "strategic property" in the United States. After a violent election campaign in Israel, after the Iraqi nuclear reactor episode and the bombing of Beirut, and in view of the coalition negotiations and the formation of the government, large groups of American Jews are turning their backs on Mr Begin and the Israeli Government. The attempts of various speakers and observers to minimize the problem by saying that American Jews are quite capable of distinguishing between Israel and its government are just foolishness and hot air. It is clear that in its change of attitude to the government, this Jewish community is turning its back on Israel as a whole.

In this state of international isolation, and given the growing Arab influence in the United States and the makeup of the Reagan government, this development is intolerable in the short term from an economic and political point of view. But no less significant is the fact that the growing estrangement between Israel and large groups of Jews in the United States will have far-reaching national and political significance over the long haul. If we are to judge by the latest political and military course of Mr Begin and the Israeli Government, it would seem that they are not aware of this new situation or ignore it; or it may even be that their political understanding is so dull that there is no prospect that they will attempt to do something about the deterioration until there is a complete collapse.

Only someone who is not satisfied with organized gatherings or with conversations with established wealthy personages in Washington, New York or Los Angeles could understand the real change that is taking place. Like the writer of these lines, one has to visit the various Jewish communities on the east coast, the west coast and the "sun belt" and to listen carefully to the new voices and tones that are emerging. Only someone whose ears are well attuned to reactions in these places would be able to appreciate the considerable erosion that has been going on for some time in the attitude of these communities towards Israel--in their consciousness and to an increasing degree in their actions.

In this connection, one of the great mysteries is the degree of sensitivity and understanding which the embassy in Washington accords these developments (as well as the "experts" on the subject in both the coalition and the opposition). If

any one of them has sensed this erosion and reported it, then his words have not reached the proper ears or the reports are falling on deaf ears.

There is no doubt that several hard and fast and yet erroneous ideas are current in Israel about American Jewry. One aspect of this is the claim that if Israel is dependent on the U.S. Government, she is nonetheless not dependent on American Jewry. According to this approach, American Jewry still has emotional, ideological and practical need of Israel. Because of this dependency of the American Jewish community on Israel, its loyalty and its willingness to aid the government in its policy is assured. But there is no foundation whatsoever for this.

The second view has to do with the structure of the political power of the American Jewish community and the possibilities of drafting it for political purposes connected with Israel. Again without any basis, many in Israel suppose that: American Jewry is a homogeneous body; the leaders of the big Jewish organizations for any purpose connected with Israel; these leaders would want to aid Israel and defend her when called upon by her to do so (in this connection it seems to me that Mr Begin is in for an unpleasant surprise when he comes to the United States).

Quite a number of things have to be clarified. First, the Israeli dependence on the American government means also, and perhaps primarily, a political dependence on American Jewry. By the same token American Jewry is not dependent on Israel, but rather Israel is dependent on American Jewry to satisfy several of her most basic needs. Even if American Jewry musters out of its own resources only in the neighborhood of \$300 million for Israel, the \$2.2 billion that Israel receives from the American government is in decisive measure the result of Jewish pressures on the government, both overt and covert.

It is doubtful whether we would receive such significant sums without the support of American Jewry. Furthermore, even if the important decisions concerning arms supplies to Israel and its neighbors are accepted by the White House, the most important factor in the considerations of the President is still the position of the Jews in the various election districts. The present administration is displaying great political sophistication and attention to popular support for issues and policy. One can be sure that this administration will look long and hard at the changes taking place in attitudes and inclinations of the Jewish community.

Reaction to Government Policy

Second, far-reaching demographic changes have taken place in the American diaspora. These changes are of the greatest significance for the relationship between Israel and this Jewish community. One of these changes is connected to the mixed marriages which are increasing and causing a numerical decline in the community. The second change is the abandonment of the big cities and the establishment of new Jewish communities in smaller towns. The third change has to do with the rise of new generations of members and leaders in the communities who were not involved in the holocaust experience and the establishment of Israel and whose identification is conditioned by Israeli actions and shortcomings.

These accumulating changes find their expression in a new orientation of the Jewish community (in itself very capable): The main concern of the community will be the solution of its own problems. The result of all this is that interest in Israel is decreasing and concern with internal communal processes is growing.

Thus for example, for the first time in 30 years the main theme in the charities' solicitation campaign next year will be the condition of U.S. Jewry and not the problems of Israel.

The reason for the rapid erosion that has been occurring of late is not the demographic and social process alone. The most important immediate cause is the policy of the Israeli Government over the last 4 years. Large identifiable groups (like the reform and conservative streams, many free professionals and the academic community) have been alienated by Israel in reaction to the policy of the Israeli Government and its declarations in these internal areas: scheming against the reform stream, the growing religious compulsion in Israel, chauvinistic education and the reduction in aid to the depressed strata of Israeli society.

But the policy, declarations and deeds which cause sharp reactions and an unwillingness to identify with Israel and support her are in the area of foreign policy and defense. Large groups among American Jews reject the government's policy towards the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza, they oppose the [West Bank] settlements, they were astounded by the destruction of the Iraqi reactor and by what they perceived to be crude lies on the part of the prime minister (regarding what Saddam Husayn had said and the reality of the device under the heart of the reactor), and finally they were struck hard by the bombing (and its timing) in Beirut.

'Eliahu Salfter wrote that the image of Israel is now one of an "insane country" from a strategic point of view. An "insane policy" in a strategic sense is sometimes the result of rational consideration, which, perhaps, is something that we occasionally practice. But in the U.S. Jewish communities a different image of Israel has been created, in a governmental wrapper and not a national one. The image of Israel as a country of fools and charlatans is becoming more and more widespread. In relations between two parts of the Jewish people there is no greater danger than this kind of relationship which calls into question all the bases for cooperation and mutual aid. No historical, philosophical or psychological explanations which try to prove the strength of the bonds between Israel and American Jewry will help change these positions as long as this lethal image persists and the rift between Israel and American Jewry widens.

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CSO: 4323/74

CHANGE IN SADAT POSITION PREDICTED AFTER SINAI RETURN

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Aug 81 p 2

[Article by Dr H. Rosenbloom]

[Excerpts] There was a time...yes, there was a time when Arafat took a most radical stand toward us, when Saudi Prince Raht was a bit more moderate toward us, while Sadat was more restrained and pleasant toward us than Arafat and Fahd combined. Since then 2 or 3 years have passed and the positions of the three of them toward Israel have become much more identical. And it has gone precisely toward the spirit of Arafat: The three of them are for the return of absolutely all the territories to the Arabs, the three of them are for the return of Jerusalem to the Arabs, the three of them are for Israel's recognition of the PLO, the three of them are for PLO participation in talks with us, and the three of them are for the dismantling of Israeli settlements in the territories. And if all of this is now, before the return of the rest of Sinai to Cairo--what will it be next April, after the return? It would seem to us that with the present Egyptian interest first of all in having us complete our evacuation of the Sinai that Sadat would now affect a certain disavowal of the PLO. But look what is happening: In America Sadat concentrated all his strength and energy in pointing up the urgency of the PLO problem and even in Egypt he did not conceal his position in his talks with Menahem Begin in insisting on his right to emphasize his fundamentally positive position toward the PLO in a joint press conference with his Israeli guests, even if he toned down his words more diplomatically this time. This should teach us to what extent Sadat's political strength has risen and to what extent Begin's political position has declined. The welcoming ceremonies for the Israelis were nice and friendly, but there was nothing in them to change the basic nature of Egyptian relations toward us, which has not softened at all even if we take into account the lukewarm formula of the decision to "renew the autonomy talks" which did not obligate Sadat to anything really specific. Since these points were not missed by Begin and his three companions, they decided to present from their side at Alexandria only secondary claims void of decisive importance such as the exchange of youth delegations between our countries, a bid for a somewhat greater development of cultural relations between them, for encouraging more mutual cooperation in agricultural areas, tourism, etc. All of them words whose purport, apparently, was to enable Begin, after returning home, to claim that "nevertheless we achieved something there." The only think not clear is why we had to launch such a heavy trial balloon to reap such a poor harvest.

ARTICLE NOTES SADAT ACHIEVEMENT OF ARAB GOALS

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 21 Aug 81 p 3

[Article by Paul Edelberg]

[Text] Sadat and the Saudis. "Poor Menahem has his own problems. After all, I got back 90 percent of the Sinai and the Alma oilfield, but what has Menachem gotten? A piece of paper...." (Anwar Sadat in an interview in the New York TIMES on the 19th of October, 1980).

Even before Anwar Sadat arrived in Jerusalem in November of 1980, the author of these lines warned the Israeli Government that the Egyptian tyrant did not come to Israel to make peace but to take the first step towards the piecemeal destruction of the State of Israel. Since then I have written a book and a number of articles in which I have made use of primary and secondary sources in order to prove my point. In my lectures throughout the United States I have defended these points.

On several occasions I was asked: If Sadat is implementing the Islamic goal of destroying Israel, then why is there such great Islamic hostility towards Sadat and towards the agreement that Sadat signed with Israel in March, 1979? Doesn't this hostility on the part of people who are almost desirous of war against him prove the rectitude of Sadat's intentions?

Theatrics

Unfortunately it does not prove anything. There are many reasons why Sadat's actions arouse outbreaks of hatred on the part of his Muslim brothers. Insofar as the Islamic regimes are autocratic, it is not at all difficult to stage this kind of vocal chorus. Someone comes, comes into contact with or meets the heads of Islam and arranges it. There is no tangle of conflicting interests here (including also serious journalists) as in the West. Dictators are infamous for this in order to have their cake and eat it, too. One day they set the pot aboil and the next day they let it cool.

This is rather interesting. Despite the fact that the Arab states have exacerbated their relations with Egypt, they have not cut back their economic investments in the land of the Nile. In fact, Egypt continues to train soldiers from the reject-ionist states. At the same time, their condemnation of Sadat has immeasurably increased the confidence in him among the democratic countries and he manages to obtain from the West, and especially from the United States, billions of dollars in military and economic aid.

After very expensive and unsuccessful wars against Israel, the Islamic leaders can see what every other observer sees. Without losing a single soldier, Sadat is getting back the Sinai, including the Israeli airbases which were built with such sophistication as well as the developed sources of oil. In fact he is exploiting Israel's "special relationships" with the United States; he is maneuvering Washington to apply pressure on Israel to give up its control of Judea and Samaria, to divide Israel and to ruin its economy.

Thus, by just lifting a finger--on the pretext that it is because of Israel's stubbornness, as the American media will claim--Sadat is able to annul everything that he "sacrificed" for the Sinai. [For example] the investment of \$15 billion in building a broad base for economic potential. He could close the Suez Canal to Israeli shipping (a right that Israel has no less than other countries in accordance with international law). He could deflect the oil that he gets and sells to Israel, in another direction. And, of course, he could cut the ties with Israel about which Sadat said, as attributed to the late Yig'al Alon, that they are "something temporary," something that "will disappear" when the peace process is completed. Saudi Arabia is now taking the next step towards the completion of this process.

Time is on the side of opportunism.

Even though the attacks on Sadat by Saudi Arabia and the other Arab countries have strengthened the Egyptian ruler's currency in the West, no one should conclude that there is any kind of conspiracy here. We must not forget the innumerable internal quarrels among the Arabs, the narrowness of vision of men who envy Sadat his position as the most esteemed Arab leader. In the face of this enmity, even those leaders who display understanding of Sadat's strategy are ready to take advantage of his consistent inconsistency which results from his current position and to enlist support for themselves and against Egypt, whose position as traditional leader of the Muslim world is so strong as to be almost incontestable. But at the same time we should not conclude that people like these are [not] capable of overcoming such feelings when they have a common goal: here the oil cartel, there the Hussein-Arafat agreement despite the civil war in Jordan in 1970. This also explains Saudi Arabia's progress in Sadat's footsteps, even when the latter harshly attacks his critics. Time is on the side of opportunism.

Now when Israel is about 8 months before total withdrawal from Sinai, Saudi Arabia, which finances the PLO, offers to recognize the State of Israel. With nothing to offer Israel but a piece of paper, Saudi Arabia demands: (a) total withdrawal to the borders of the 1949 armistice agreement; (b) the return of East Jerusalem; (c) the establishment of a Palestinian state; (d) the return of the Arab refugees or the payment of compensation to those that left Israel after the 1948 war. This peace strategem should be equated to that published in articles by a confidant of Sadat's, 'AL-QUDS, in the paper 'AL-AHRAM on 14 November, 1975: Israel is going through a process of decline or "withering." This withering will not cease even if she withdraws to the borders of 1967, and even if she should recognize the rights of the inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and Gaza; and even if she should recognize the PLO (all of this from the recognition that would come)--because the Arab world has the power to unite Washington and Moscow in a single position. This decline is likely to bring Israel face to face with the 1948 Security Council resolution calling upon her to return Arab lands to their owners or to pay damages. The

Arabs, of course, reject any damage payment and insist that they get their lands. That is that. They press Israel to return to the partition boundaries of 1947.

Just last month the Israeli Government protested against 'Al-AHRAM for characterizing all of the State of Israel as "captured territory." Thus it is no wonder that the Egyptian tourist map refers to Israel as "Palestine" and does not recognize Tel Aviv and Haifa at all.

Tactics are of Moscow Origin

Now, when the Americans forced a one-sided cease-fire on Israel with the PLO in Lebanon, the latter continues to acquire Soviet weaponry while the United States delayed the F15's and F16's--and Saudi Arabia finds a convenient hour to exploit Sadat's peace strategy. With the PLO in the background and a Palestinian state in the foreground, the Saudis can maneuver even more than Sadat. By exploiting U.S. and Western dependence on Saudi oil. In fact, this strategy of using the United States to chop up Israel has its source, as Sadat himself noted:

"In Moscow they know the facts no less than I. The Soviets told Nasir on several occasions, [as] when he met with them after the catastrophe of 1967: 'Go speak with the Americans.' During the four times that I have gone to Moscow as president, they have regularly told me: 'Go, open up a dialogue and talk with the Americans.' The United States holds all the cards in this game."

The cards, of course, are hidden in American military and economic aid to Israel. The Saudis, who finance the most poisonous anti-Jewish propaganda in the Middle East, are now trying to get into the game. They offer Israel "recognition."

In their desperate desire to be accepted by their neighbors, certain insecure Israelis who see with their hearts--reacted immediately in a positive way to the Saudi proposal without examining its content. In so doing they prove their lack of courage and a nauseating naivete with regard to Islam: they refuse to take seriously the unrelenting hostility and camouflaged animosity of Islam to the Jewish people. The correct answer to the Saudis, the Middle Eastern publishers and distributors of "Mein Kampf," should be this: we do not ask for or even want your recognition, just as we do not ask for the recognition of the PLO, your terrorist spearhead.

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ISRAEL

BEGIN SEEN EVADING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SINAI WITHDRAWAL

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Aug 81 p 7

[Editorial: "An Attempt To Dictate History"]

[Text] One of the most difficult and certainly one of the most troubling tasks facing the government in the coming year is the evacuation of the remainder of the Sinai and the settlements in the Rafiah salient. Were Mr Begin to lessen somewhat the weight of responsibility for the evacuation and to divide up the burden, even more than a little, it would be understandable. But the prime minister has chosen, and at his own initiative, completely to shake off the yoke by changing the facts retroactively--and this cannot be ignored.

In Friday's edition of MA'ARIV a curious exchange of letters was published between one of the chief rabbis, Rabbi Shlomo Goren, and the Israeli prime minister. The Rabbi was very upset that he had been cited as an authority for the claim that the Sinai is not included in the Biblical borders of the land of Israel and therefore can be given up. Rabbi Goren acknowledges that Sinai is not the land of Israel, but maintains that the Rafiah salient is the land of Israel in every sense of the term--and cites as authorities the Rabbi Saadia Gaon [a 10th century Jewish philosopher], the author of "Knop and Flower" [a 13th century geography of the land of Israel of Estory ha'Farhi] and others. To that, the prime minister responds that it was not he who gave up the salient at Camp David but rather the Knesset and at the instance of the "wretched course of the Alignment."

It is proper to note here that while the rabbi is talking about territorial sovereignty over the Rafiah salient, the prime minister responds, without answering that point, about leaving the settlements in place, and without foreign sovereignty, Mr Begin did not fight at Camp David for sovereignty, but, as he testified about himself, for leaving the settlements in Egyptian sovereign territory under the protection of a Jewish defense force. That is to say, even his response to the rabbi is not in the form of a question--which says something about the prime minister's style in clarifying things as they are.

But the essential question is whether he and his friends at Camp David, or the government under his leadership, the Knesset (in which Mr Begin's government had a majority of 74 of the 120 seats) for the Alignment with its 32 member faction, were responsible for the evacuation of the settlements? The prime minister says now: The Alignment is responsible, but the news clippings show otherwise. In

his Knesset speech of 25 September 1978 in which he brought the good "tidings of the establishment of peace with the strongest and largest of the Arab countries," Mr Begin sought the ratification by the Knesset of the Camp David accords through polemics with, among others, "those who claimed that we gave them (the settlements of the salient) up" already at the time of Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Mr Begin said that there was nothing to this claim and continued "but the following choice is before you today: To accept the decision...or no negotiations will begin on a peace treaty and all the things that were agreed to at Camp David will be null and void. This is the choice, these are the two possibilities, and there is no third. And I declare here, with an aching heart but with a clear conscience that I recommend choosing the possibility that we chose yesterday in the government session because this is the road that leads to peace. This is the supreme national interest, even for my settler friends and acquaintances."

Thus in that speech the prime minister determined that the question was as follows: Peace or the settlements of the salient, and that he and no one else recommended the road that leads to peace, and he added further than this was the supreme national interest. From that line of reasoning it follows unavoidably that the road that leads to peace is the road that he agreed upon at Camp David: he and not the government, not the Knesset and certainly not the Alignment. But these things were said when Mr Begin sought to convince people that he was bringing the good tidings of peace and now he is trying to wriggle out of his personal responsibility which requires from him the price he had agreed to pay for peace.

There are examples in history of other countries where people responsible for necessary but unpleasant actions tried to pass the buck to their opponents. But in fact there is an unpleasant tendency: It gets published. Israel's side of the Camp David accords was summarized by Mr Begin and his assistants who were with him. The achievement, like the price--the evacuation of Sinai including the salient--is Mr Begin's. An attempt to stuff the public with actions and then place the responsibility for evacuation on others will not succeed: even Mr Begin is not stronger than historical truth.

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ISRAEL

EGYPT ACCUSED OF EXCESSIVE ARMS BUILDUP

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Aug 81 p 17

[Article by Joseph Alper]

[Text] The question that they don't ask Sadat is: Why the increasing arms buildup of the Egyptian Army?

In advance of the talks of the prime minister and the defense minister with the Egyptian leaders, the analysts debated the question: Which topics would merit the attention of the discussants and be brought up? Would the Egyptians press Begin and Sharon for additional concessions at the last stage of the withdrawal from Sinai, or would the Israeli side succeed in focusing the talks on matters on autonomy and normalization? It seems that even when the meeting in Alexandria is over, the journalistic and academic analysis will still concentrate on these questions and their implications. It is also reasonable to suppose--and these words were written before the results of the talks were known--that additional and varied topics concerning Israeli-Egyptian relations were discussed.

But one topic can be singled out with a fair degree of certainty as not having been brought up and not discussed. Since there was a kind of taboo, an unspoken agreement to leave it be. This is the question of the continuing buildup of the Egyptian Army.

It should be said at the very beginning: Egypt is in no way hiding its intentions and actions on the matter. Indeed, in the distant past, at the time of the negotiation of the Camp David accords, Egypt promised endlessly in a reassuring tone that the era of peace would permit them finally to decrease their enormous army and dedicate themselves to economic development. But at the same time the Egyptians are working ceaselessly in the propaganda sphere to impress on the consciousness of their new arms suppliers--the American government--that there is another reason which justifies and obligates the arming and redevelopment of the Egyptian Army: the Soviet danger.

This Egyptian propaganda line has been familiar to us for some time. In fact in February of this year the Egyptian chief of staff explained that "Egypt faces many dangers, from the west, from the south and from other directions. The source of most of the dangers is the comprehensive Soviet scheme for supremacy over the region.... We have sought an increase in American military aid...since we play a central role in the Middle East." Another characteristic example of these

pronouncements: A few days ago, on August 18, the new Egyptian foreign minister, Kam'al Hasan 'Ali, described the new cooperation agreement between Libya, South Yemen, and Ethiopia as "serious testimony to the Soviet intention to flank the area...." President Sadat also frequently expresses concern about what is happening around him in Africa--and in his opinion it matters little if the encroachments are Soviet, Cuban (in Ethiopia) or Libyan (in Chad). The possibility of a radical leftist encroachment against the Gulf states also worries Sadat, and we are already accustomed to the sound of his chivalrous offer to place Egypt at the disposal of the "rescuers" of Saudi Arabia if and when the flood should hit it.

There are two interesting viewpoints on the Egyptian propaganda campaign on the matter of the need to reinforce the Egyptian Army in order to meet the Soviet danger: On the one side, the United States--which recognizes the truth of the Egyptian claims--responds favorably to the Egyptian arms requests. Since she knows that she herself will achieve a rapid intervention capability in the area only 3 years hence ("the Rapid Deployment Force"), and that the states of the area will not tolerate Israeli intervention on any pretext, the United States is supplying Egypt F-16 planes, M-60 tanks, antitank and antiaircraft missiles and a rich bounty of other advanced equipment for her eight divisions in large quantities and on generous credit terms in order that she, Egypt, "watch over the area." And the hand is still extended; the Egyptian defense minister, Abu Ghazala, returned from Washington at the beginning of August and brought back news of the firming up of a new 5-year plan that will start next year, the purpose of which is to assure the continuation of regular supplies of American equipment to the Egyptian Army.

But on the other side, the dangers which Egypt sees as a result of radical encroachment in the area do not stand in any direct relation to the scope of the buildup of the Egyptian Army. For Egypt has made peace with Israel; the Sudan, her neighbor to the south, is her ally; only the Libyans on the west do not get along with the Egyptians, but there is no serious military observer in the area who would attribute to Qadhafi's Libyans the ability or intention of attacking Egypt. To annoy and to encroach--yes, but to attack, no. For Qadhafi has easier prey in Africa; he has already invaded Chad and, as is well known, he does not conceal his desire to expand his influence over additional weak neighboring states like Niger, Mali, Mauritania and even the Sudan.

It should be possible, at least, to expect Egypt to use her mighty army against a "danger" like Libya, that is to say--to stop speaking so high and mighty and begin to act, at least a little, in order to increase belief in the claims that she makes for justifying American military aid. The question arises, not for Sadat but for ourselves: if President Sadat cannot restrain a small group of Libyans in Chad, then why is he really building his efficient modern army?

Whoever examines this question honestly--even someone who believes heart and soul in the truthfulness of the peace with Egypt--must admit that the Egyptian military buildup is not intended first and foremost against Libya, or Ethiopia, or even to save the Gulf from an Arab-style Khomeyni. This buildup is intended at least to maintain the Egyptian position as the most important force in the Arab world. The minimal operational options that it buys for Egypt--like the typing up of IDF forces in the Negev in the event of an Israeli-Syrian war in the north--are hardly a riddle to any military planner. Therefore it is amazing that our politicians avoid the issue. For we, too, have something to say about the matter both in talks with the Egyptians and in presenting our security needs to the United States. It

is wrong that rules of etiquette, or fear of the evil eye, or any other reason whatever should prevent us from asking the Egyptians and the Americans: What is the reason for this military buildup?

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CHIEF RABBI GOREN DISCUSSES RELIGION-STATE CONTROVERSY

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 28 Sep 81 p 5

[Interview with Israel's Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren by Moshe Ishon and Yehoshua' Shemesh; date and place not specified]

[Text] "This is not a confrontation, it is a struggle for the truth, the truth of the Torah," says Israel's Chief Rabbi Sholomo Goren in answer to those who argue that he has caused a serious confrontation between religious and secular Jews because of his stand on the excavations in the City of David. "When it comes to the truth one must take a clear stand, even if some see it as a confrontation," the chief rabbi points out. He goes on to say that the confrontation between religious and secular Jews is artificial. "There is no confrontation," the chief rabbi reiterates. He maintains that most Jews in Israel show respect for tradition. He believes many side with the chief rabbinate, not only in regard to the digs in the City of David, but also in matters of Jewish identity in the State of Israel. If there is any confrontation, he adds, it has to do with those who quote Ben-Gurion's slogan regarding Israel as a state of law and not a state of halacha (religious law). This is not what Ben-Gurion meant. Israel's first prime minister was a great supporter of religious law in matters of marriage and divorce, dietary laws and the Sabbath, all of which he considered essential for preserving the Jewish character of the state. Hence the argument that Ben-Gurion saw Israel as a state of law rather than a state of halacha is unfounded. The truth is, Rabbi Goren stresses, that some of the laws of Israel are derived from the halacha. Moreover, halacha means law, as it is written in the Torah, "For it is a law unto Israel, a statute for the Lord of Jacob." The chief rabbi does not look kindly on anyone who tries to replace the halacha with secular laws which make Israel lose its unique identity. "Take away the halacha and you no longer have Israel," he once declared. Does the halacha have any status? This is the struggle which takes place these days between the chief rabbinate and the secular authorities. The struggle is over the identity of Israel--will it continue to be a Jewish state or will become a secular state? Hence the chief rabbi's strong stand on the issue of the excavations in the City of David, which touches on the very soul of the Jewish state.

We met the chief rabbi in his home pouring over books on his work desk, preparing a halachic answer to a question dealing with easing the burden of the individual. "When it comes to the question of saving lives, or personal matters such as allowing a woman whose husband disappeared to remarry, or allowing those who are halachically unfit to marry to be able to enter into a marriage union, etc., I guide myself according to the attribute of mercy. But when it comes to matters which touch on the

very existence of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, I have to act according to the attribute of justice, so that the halacha may not be done away with." This in essence is the chief rabbi's credo, as it has been since he became chief rabbi for Israel, or even going back to the pre-state days. This is his personal belief which has guided him in the controversy over the excavations in the city of David. "Rabbi Goren has not changed," he says with a smile. "I have not changed in any way since my days in the IDF. I am the same Rabbi Goren. The anti-religious war has intensified. This is the real change and with the Almighty's help we will win."

Question: How do you see the status of religious Jewry in Israel in the year 1981?

Rabbi Goren: I am sorry to say that we have witnessed this year a most serious polarization between the two Jewish views, the one which believes in a state guided by the Torah and the halacha and the one which prefers a secular state devoid of any religious values. This polarization does not center on any one issue, but rather manifests itself in many of the political, religious and educational activities in Israel during the past year.

This is a strange phenomenon, considering the fact that both here and abroad a growing number of Jews are returning to the sources of faith and Jewish law. This trend is no longer a short-lived episode, but rather a strong ongoing movement which has affected the entire secular population, even the anti-religious part, like the three kibbutz movements. I have no rational explanation for this trend. It may be divinely ordained. But if we were to look at it logically, we could find the reason for it in the fact that all other philosophical, sociological and other kinds of ideologies are bankrupt, and there is a vacuum among people, especially the youth. Surveys have shown that those who come back to religion are mostly the young. There have been many attempts to fill this vacuum with pagan mystical theories which have never proven themselves. Since Marxism and socialism have also failed, many have reached the conclusion they can only trust their Heavenly Father, and that the Torah is the only eternal source of light which can solve the problems of the young even in the most scientifically advanced age.

Question: Does this movement back to religion indicate a fulfilment of the prophecy of Amos, "I will cause hunger in the land, not hunger for bread or thirst for water but to hear the words of the Lord?"

Rabbi Goren: I am not sure. Perhaps it is the fulfillment of the vision of Isaiah, "For I will pour water on the thirsty and a stream on the land, I will pour my spirit on your seed and my blessing on your descendants." This, in any case, is the vision of the prophets of Israel regarding the universal return to God.

Yet, this welcome return to religion is only one side of the coin. The other side is the growing enmity of the secular community. We saw it this year. While I see this as coming from a small vocal minority, which has no leg to stand on other than its war against the religion of Israel, this small group has influenced many other people by distorting the image of militant religious Zionism.

Question: Could it be that the return to religion has caused alarm among certain segments of the secular community, and has made their attitude more extreme?

Rabbi Goren: I don't believe that this is what bothers them. It is rather truth itself that they are afraid of. They are afraid to face this truth. They know they will not be able to hold out much longer against the Torah, which was given by God whose word is truth. The late Chief Rabbi Kuk has written that death is a lie. A lie has no basis in reality, it has no right to exist. Truth lives forever, and the word of our God will endure. Our sages have taught that "Jacob our father did not die," since Jacob is the source of truth, as it is written, "You give truth to Jacob." Death has no dominion over him. This is why they look for preventive measures. They are trying to avoid coming to grips with the truth of Israel's Torah.

Question: Yet the secular community keeps insisting that the religious community is trying to violate the status quo?

Rabbi Goren: I do not know what the status quo is, and I have never accepted it. If we look back to the beginning of the state we will see that there has never been a status quo in religious matters. If we take the establishment of the state as our point of departure, why is it that at that time the marriage and divorce law, which is the most fundamental religious law in the state, was passed, as well as the rabbinical court law, etc.? David Ben-Gurion had said that as long as he was prime minister, and as long as his party was in power, he would not allow (politics) to split the nation, and that civil marriage will destroy our people. This was the main reason for his bringing this law before the Knesset.

Question: In general, were the changes in the status quo favorable to orthodox Jewry?

Rabbi Goren: In regard to certain laws there was an improvement. Practically speaking, there is a process of furthering religion in the state by making the laws of the Torah a more integral part of life and by protecting the halacha. And yet the political philosophy and the religious ideology of the state and the population are in a state of decline. All gains in religious matters are met with protest on the part of the vocal minority, which encourages the anti-religious attitude in the state, as if to say, Beware of the Orthodox, oh Israel.

Question: Is that true?

Rabbi Goren: No, I think it is just the opposite. When people ask me where does the separation between religion and state exist--here or in the U.S., I say that it exists here to a much greater degree. In the U.S. the separation is on paper only. Here it actually exists. In the U.S. you can read on every dollar bill the motto In God We Trust. Perhaps our shekel is so devaluated because there is no fear of God on it. The U.S. Senate and Congress do not start a session without an opening prayer by a clergyperson. I myself was once honored with such an opening prayer, which lasted for 10 minutes, and which was recorded in the official publication of the Congress, following which the official business was conducted. When a new president is sworn in, most of the time is devoted to prayers by representatives of the various religions. Presidential speeches are full of religious allusions. American radio and television broadcast services from churches and synagogues. By law, all U.S. military installations must provide worship facilities for Protestants, Catholics and Jews. The houses of worship are paid for by the defense budget, and the prayer books are provided by the state. The status of the clergy in the U.S. is the most advanced in the world. The clergy enjoy many privileges, they even have reserved parking places. Religion is treated with respect.

Question: What about here, would you say religion in Israel is looked down upon?

Rabbi Goren: Here there is no respect for religion and no respect for people. Not only religion is looked down upon, but also people. There is disregard for values in many circles. There is no respect for the elderly, no respect for parents and teachers, no courtesy. There is no teaching of values, of respecting people, including those who preserve the Torah. Compare the decorum at a wedding ceremony in the U.S. to the rowdiness here in every religious ceremony.

Question: Isn't the spiritual leadership to blame for not having succeeded in endearing itself to the public at large?

Rabbi Goren: The spiritual leadership can only do its job when it is given the tools, the means, the opportunity and the authority to do it.

Question: Isn't the rabbinate backed by the law?

Rabbi Goren: The rabbinate is not backed by the law as the standard bearer of Torah. In the new chief rabbinate law which was passed a year ago, it stated at first in section one that the chief rabbinate is the supreme religious authority in the state. When the bill reached the Knesset this section was struck out. If a rabbi tries to prove that he is not someone's employee, he is taken to task.

This turned out to be true in the recent excavations in the City of David. What is more self evident than the fact that the chief rabbinate must decide what place is a Jewish cemetery? Even if the chief rabbinate is left with no authority, this last matter should still remain in its hands. It is interesting to note that in the entire coalition agreement of the present government, which includes 83 sections, the chief rabbinate is mentioned in only one place, in Section 45. What does it say? "The religious law of not digging up and searching in graves will be kept... in every license granted for excavations by the authorities it will clarify whether there are grave sites in the area, in which case the excavation will stop in order to consult the chief rabbinate on the matter." It seems as if the spirit of prophecy had descended upon the lawmakers before the incident at the City of David took place.

Getting to the point, what could be worse than plundering graves and taking out thousands of bones, including the soldiers of Bar Kokhva, and not burying them. Hundreds of skeletons were discovered in the Judean Desert, including 50 of Bar Kokhva's warriors, which have never been given proper burial and are now scattered in universities and research institutes. There is no respect for the Torah or for people, dead or alive, including the sacred heroes of 'En Gdi who fought in Bar Kokhva's army. The recent events have made me realize that the compromising attitude of religious Zionism has not paid off.

Question: Yet there are those who argue that it is the lack of compromise on the part of the religious community that causes the polarization.

Rabbi Goren: We have made a historical mistake by not causing the polarization 34 years ago. Compromise means retreat from our vital spiritual position. It means that the majority will swallow us up and do away with our spiritual values. I am in favor of fighting against such laws as the law of return. I am sure that the

recent clash will be beneficial for the Jewish people, the Torah, and the state. We have kept quiet until now. There were undercurrents, and we have kept them from bursting out. This time they did burst. This affair will lead to a religious, public and political clarification--where do we stand, what is the place and the status of religious Zionism, if enmity against us is so strong. We have to fight with all our might for the status of the Torah in the Land of Israel. For decades we have fought for the unity of the people, the Torah and the state. We have agreed to give up organic parts of the sacred Land of Israel and dismantle settlements and return them to Egypt. To this day we have not fought for the unity of the people in terms of the law of return and conversion according to the halacha. Now the fight is for the integrity of the Torah. We must not desist from this fight.

Question: Some say that for years you have been a bridge among the various segments of the population and you were a peace maker, and that now you have taken an extreme stand. Is this true?

Rabbi Goren: Anyone who says that in the past it was a compromiser does not know what he is saying. I have banged on Ben-Gurion's desk many times and insisted on what I knew was right, and I gained his respect. But when it comes to women who want to remarry after their husband has disappeared, or men who are not fit to marry according to the halacha, or women with family problems, I do everything I can to solve their problems. I resort to the divine attribute of mercy. When the problem is personal, when someone is in trouble, I do everything I can to find a solution. Rabbi Soloveichik once told me that his grandfather, Rabbi Hayim of Brisk used to "pull stones out of the floor" when it came to dealing with solving a problem of an illegitimate person, in order to save the unfortunate person. My nature does not allow me to see people suffer, and I do everything I can to help them. But under no circumstances will I agree to violate the halacha because someone wants to plunder graves or to practice on dead bodies or to take skeletons out of their graves. I am the last person in the world who will forgive those who have taken the bones of Bar Kokhva's soldiers and thousands of other Jewish bones out of their graves and have scattered them all over the world. I will fight it with all my might.

We should take notice how our sages of blessed memory dealt with this sensitive issue. Our sources do not dwell on commemorating wars, but when it comes to graves of martyrs, they have instituted two memorials: (a) The day the heroes of Betar were buried they enacted in Yavneh the blessing "The good God who does good" in the prayer after the meal, which is the fourth blessing to this day, and (b) the Mishnah in Ta'anit states that the 15th of Av and Yom Kippur were the happiest days in the Jewish calendar, a time when the daughters of Jerusalem would dance in the vineyards. One of the six reasons for the feast of the 15th of Av in the Palestinian and Babylonian Talmuds, is that the fallen soldiers of Betar were buried on that day. I could not understand the analogy between the 15th of Av and Yom Kippur, what was it that made the 15th of Av as important as Yom Kippur? This latest incident helped me understand it. I maintain that when Israel's heroes are not given a proper burial the day of atonement does not atone for Israel. In II Samuel 21 it is written: "There was famine in the time of David for 3 years, year after year, and David prayed to God, and God said, it is because of Saul and his bloody house, because they have killed the Gibeonites." The Talmud explains in Yvamot 78b: "It was because Saul was not properly mourned." What it actually means is that he was not properly buried as it is written in Pirke d'Rabi Eliezer and in Scripture. The same chapter in II Samuel states that

David took the bones of Saul and of Jonathan his son from the people of Yavesh Gilead who had stolen them from Bet Shen, "and he took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son and buried them in the land of Benjamin in Tzelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father. And they did all that the king had commanded and God forgave the land thereafter." This means that God did not forgive the land as long as they did not bury the bones.

In the cave of the scrolls in the Judean Desert where the 50 skeletons of the Bar Kokhva warriors were found, a Bar Kokhva archive was found as well. One of the letters in the archive states that Uar Kokhva ordered a shipment of the four kinds of ritual trees from En Gedi to Betar so that the soldiers may keep the holiday. As mentioned before, one of the reasons for the feast of the 15th of Av was that the soldiers of Betar were buried on that day, which is why the blessing of "The good God who does good" was designated for the prayer after the meal. And what happens in our time? The holy bones of Bar Kokhva's soldiers are taken out of their graves and scattered all over the country!

Question: And yet, in the case of the City of David, you have been labelled a radical. Is that true?

Rabbi Goren: My teacher Rabbi Iser Zalman Meltzer of blessed memory once told me, that in the Volozin academy there was once a secular philosopher from an assimilated family, who became a religious fanatic. They asked him why he was so fanatic, when even the great Maimonides has taught us to look for the golden mean, the middle way. He said, what is the golden mean? When one knows where the original road is, one knows where left and right are, and where the middle is. But when the original road has been obliterated and a new road has been paved, far from the original one, there is no longer a golden mean.

What kind of radical are they talking about? What are we fighting for? That graves should not be desecrated and plundered? I am not fighting that anyone should put on phylacteries, or go to the synagogue, or eat kosher food. This is one's private domain. The fight is over a patently halachic question, and we should keep quiet? Why are they making so much noise and fighting so vehemently?

Question: The fight over the City of David affair may be your greatest public war. What conclusions have you arrived at because of it?

Rabbi Goren: This incident has taught me something. Because we had to interfere with one archeologist in a case involving three-quarters of a dunam, the entire archeological and scientific community was mobilized against us. There were a few exceptions. There were those who refused to sign the manifesto. But most of the academic community did join in, because they were afraid their bluff might be called. I am sorry to say some religious scholars also joined the group, including Professor Auerbach, whose involvement was invalid from the beginning, both academically and religiously. This affair showed that some religious Jews have no religious pride, do not think for themselves, and take no pride in representing the Torah.

I am fully in favor of confrontation when it comes to the laws of the Torah, because it is so vital to us. The course of events has made this a test case for Orthodoxy.

All legal rulings will be short-lived, but the ruling of the halacha, in any matter whatsoever, will last forever, and its educational impact will continue to grow, teaching the people to respect the Torah and its representatives, as the great Maimonides has stated, that one can only respect the Torah by keeping its laws.

Question: But is it right to harm the unity of the people on account of the ruins of the City of David?

Rabbi Goren: Israel's unity is only good when it is held together by the Torah. But when the intention is to destroy the Torah and the religion there is no unity, and it is written, "Do not consider unity to be that which the people call unity," which is explained in the Talmud, Sanhedrin 26a.

Question: We are told that Rabbi Kuk, whom you strive to follow, has always tried to bring about reconciliation and avoid confrontation.

Rabbi Goren: I doubt whether there are too many people today who knew Rabbi Kuk, except for his son, as I did. I often ask myself what Rabbi Kuk would have done if he were in my shoes. Before I was elected chief rabbi I went to the graves of Rabbi Kuk and my father-in-law, the Nazi, and promised that I would not occupy the Rabbi's seat without pledging to keep his legacy and be a faithful guardian of the office. And so whenever I have to reach an important decision I ask myself what would he have done. I have no doubt in my mind he would have strongly protested an assault on an ancient cemetery, plundering graves, and scattering the bones of Bar Kokhva's warriors.

It is a mistake to think that Rabbi Kuk always looked for reconciliation and peace at all cost. In the Stavsky case, for example, he was at odds with many people. The same was true in the case of the elections to the Jerusalem city council, and in many other cases. Looking back 46 years later, I can safely say that whenever he had to fight for something he did not hesitate to do so. It is written in Talmud Megilah 31b, "If the old tell you to destroy and the young tell you to build, then destroy, because the destruction of the old is building, and the building of the young is destruction."

Question: Nevertheless, how do we achieve unity?

Rabbi Goren: To unify the extremes we need a strong spiritual bridge. It has to stand on the strong pillars of holiness, purity, values, manners, love of Israel, Torah and respect for people. One cannot build a bridge on paper which has no value, in disregard to respect for man and Torah. One cannot build on shaky ruins. One must build a mighty bridge, prepare the ground for it, make sure it has strong foundations, and a soul. A structure without a soul cannot last. The soul, the spirit, must be infused in the foundations. The struggle for the integrity of the Torah must be done with total dedication. As it states in Talmud Shabbat, those commandments for which Israel was prepared to die have lasted, while the others have not. The light of the Torah arises from this confrontation, from our dedication to the Torah, and this light can penetrate the deepest and farthest recesses of the soul.

Question: Those who are against the confrontation quote the verse, "Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace."

Rabbi Goren: Failing to stand up for the Torah is neither a way nor pleasantness. "Ways of pleasantness" does not mean desisting from fighting, bending our head and foregoing the Torah. "Ways of pleasantness means, for example, if you ask someone to put on phylacteries, you do not force him to do it. But here they deprive the dead of resting in peace in their grave, disturbing their eternal rest, violating their domain, mocking God.

I must go back to the reasons for the Holiday of the 15th of Av. One of the six reasons as mentioned in Yrushalmi Ta'anit chapter 4 halacha 7, is that on that day Hoshea ben Elah removed the barriers which Jeroboam son of Nevat had put on the highways to keep the people from going on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and permitted them to go. Rabbi Kahana asked Rav, why was Hoshea, who did such a favor to the people, so severely punished, as it is written, "Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, went up against him, and Hoshea became his slave" (II Kings 16:3)? Rav replied, because he took off the yoke and put it on others, that is to say, he did not say the people had to go, but only were permitted to go. Thus he gave them a choice.

When it comes to a public matter we must fight to make the Torah the basis for our life. This is why I said in the beginning that the compromising attitude of religious Zionism did not work. The religious community does not tolerate compromises, nor does the secular community respect them.

Question: Is this the way to reach the non-religious?

Rabbi Goren: The fight over the City of David affair has made me aware of yet another phenomenon--abysmal ignorance among Jews, including religious Jews. This is the root of all evil. Many are unfamiliar with the basics of the halacha and the meaning of a ruling. They have no concept of what it is all about.

I once heard Professor Klausner tell a story about what ignorance can cause. When the Germans invaded Poland in World War I, they found a Jewish dayan (judge) who, on a Friday, was repairing the string which was tied around the Jewish neighborhood to mark the boundaries of the Sabbath, known as eruv. The Germans took him for a spy. When he told them what it was, they consulted their Jewish chaplain, who was a liberal rabbi, ignorant of that custom. Consequently they put that judge on trial and executed him. Professor Klausner used this story to show how dangerous ignorance can be.

Ignorance is our worst enemy. Raising our educational standards will solve many of our problems.

Still, I have not lost my love for all Jews. Which is not to say we must not fight for the integrity of the Torah. Our sages have taught that a fight for the sake of heaven increases love in Israel, as it is written in Talmud Kiddushin, "if the father and his son, the rabbi and his student who study Torah together become enemies, they remain there until they become friends, since it ends in love."

Question: What do you expect from the new Jewish year, 5742?

Rabbi Goren: I believe that the new year may be a turning point in deepening religious awareness among our people, in increasing mutual understanding and respect

for the Torah and the religion of Israel. I don't know if this is a realistic assessment or my own wishful hope. I pray that we will help one another and strengthen one another. The coming year is fraught with dangers, what with returning the entire Sinai to Egypt, tearing out parts of Israel. I doubt whether this will strengthen the peace with Egypt in the long run, and it will certainly not strengthen the peace among Jews.

We need divine mercy, and we pray for a good year, a year of material and spiritual blessings. May we see many more Jews arriving from the Soviet Union and from the rest of the world, may we unite the Jewish people by means of the Torah, so that the light of Torah will improve them, as it is written in Sifre d've Rav, "When Israel is united here below His Holy Name is praised on high, and it is written, and there was a king in Jeshurun. When? When the heads of the people gather." Rashi adds, "When you join together as one in peace, He is your king."

9565

CSO: 4423/18

OFFICIALS CRITICAL OF NUMBER OF U.S. POLICIES

GF291159 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 29 Oct 81 p 2

[Text] Kuwait—"Reagan's statement at the IMF meeting calling for the market place to take care of the Third World countries' problems carries two fallacies. First that the poorest of nations do not have a place to have a market and second the private sector in the newly industrialized countries would not go into countries that do not have basic infrastructures on which to build," Finance and Planning Minister 'Abd al-Latif Yusuf al-Hamad told a seminar here Tuesday.

The seminar, held at the premises of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, also grouped under under secretary at the Information Ministry Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah and other top Kuwaiti officials in addition to an American delegation representing private business and newsmen.

Mr al-Hamad called on the U.S. not to extinguish the marshall plan spirit of the post-World War II era.

He expressed deep distress over the new trend in the U.S. policy calling for limiting foreign aid and described such a policy as discouraging to even other members of the "club donors," such as West Germany and Japan.

The information under secretary opened the seminar with an introductory word presenting the Kuwaiti officials to the American delegation and then giving the floor to Finance Minister al-Hamad.

The minister then welcomed questions or commentaries from the American delegation saying that he preferred dialogue to ready-made material and typewritten answers.

Mr al-Hamad said that Official Development Aid (ODA) should precede the private sector's contribution in developing countries. "For the ODA provides for the establishment of infrastructure projects without which no private capital would venture to establish any project in such a country," he added.

The minister chided the U.S. for retracting former promises in a 3-year international aid plan saying that "they have to be renegotiated" and added that such a retreat distorts the image of the U.S. in the world.

A member of the delegation asked Mr al-Hamad why doesn't he convey the same message to the Soviet Union. The minister replied that "we do not talk with the Eastern bloc on the subject because on ideology grounds they do not accept it."

In reply to a remark on Kuwait's view towards the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Mr al-Hamad said that Kuwait "objects to foreign domination of any country whether it be Afghanistan or Palestine."

The minister then attacked the American rapid deployment force for including Kuwait in its line of operations.

Shaykh Nasir accused the U.S. of pushing the Afghans into the Soviet hand by denying them aid when they most needed it.

In reply to another question Shaykh Nasir explained the Kuwait is committed to the Baghdad summit conference banning all contacts with the Egyptian regime as long as it does not give up Camp David accords.

Talking of OPEC prices, Mr al-Hamad agreed with one of the member's remarks that it had soared since 1973, but he said there are two sides to every coin. If the prices had not gone so high there would have been no search for an energy alternative. The North Sea would not have been a reality, he said.

The 2-day program of the American delegation who arrived here Monday began with a reception given by deputy premier, Foreign Minister and acting Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad at the Kuwait Hilton.

Shaykh al-Sabah delivered a speech in which he focussed on the lack of American knowledge towards various Arab problems. This state of ignorance hinders the promotion of American-Arab relations and cooperation, Shaykh al-Sabah said.

The deputy premier stated that "Arabs have the right to insist that the United States adopt a more just and balanced position especially in its treatment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

The American delegation left Kuwait Tuesday to continue their tour which is expected to take them to Saudi Arabia, Oman and Egypt.

CSO: 4400/40

MINISTER COMMENTS ON OPEC PRICES, SANTA FE PURCHASE

LD041140 Kuwait KUNA in English 1023 GMT 4 Nov 81

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Nov (KUNA)--Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah predicted that "demand on OPEC oil will improve and increase enough to allow the different OPEC countries to gain an adequate amount of exports share which in itself will alleviate the burden and pressure to decrease prices," according to a Kuwaiti newspaper Wednesday.

In an interview with AL-WATAN, Shaykh al-Khalifah expressed relief that the decision on the unification of the oil price arrived at by the latest extraordinary meeting in Geneva of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries 29 October "provided us with some kind of stability until next year," he said.

On his view of the problems facing the OPEC, Shaykh al-Khalifah indicated: "The great problem faced by the organization was the circumstances themselves. We have proved our ability to counter them."

"The great hike in prices in the previous period led to a great decrease in demand also, which in turn caused a competition among the OPEC countries to conquer the markets," he explained, adding that "this has created an atmosphere whereby no agreement could be reached and where additional decrease (in prices) were introduced through different barter deals, a thing that caused the absence of trust among all the countries."

The Kuwaiti oil minister pointed out the long term OPEC strategy aims at "flexibility and to once in a while review demand on the OPEC oil and prices in a manner that guarantees the OPEC won't continue to lose the international markets and (that allows it) to be more flexible in relation to the demand expectations."

Shaykh al-Khalifah was interviewed while en route to Washington. His trip to the U.S. comes in relation to the latest venture by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation to acquire the American Santa Fe Company.

Commenting on the investment policy of Kuwait Petroleum, he indicated the corporation is a commercial establishment that should venture into realms it deems profitable.

"We all know that refineries outside Kuwait are not profitable. But the fields of exploration and the different exploration services such as digging and survey are economically lucrative," Shaykh al-Khalifah noted.

He pointed out the high level attained by Santa Fe in the fields of exploration services and engineering. "When we think of expanding our investment base in the Third World, we do that through a company with fame and high efficiency. Everywhere, the first question asked in the field of exploration is about the technical partner," Shaykh al-Khalifah pointed out.

An announcement was made 5 October by Kuwait Petroleum stating the corporation reached an agreement with Santa Fe Company to acquire all the company shares for U.S.\$2.5 billion. According to the agreement, Santa Fe would become a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

CSO: 4400/40

INVESTORS INCREASE SHARE OF LOCAL MARKET

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 21 Oct 81 p 11

[Text]

LONDON: A flowering of private sector manufacturing ventures is the best proof that Kuwaiti investors are beginning to have confidence in the home market. Faisal Al-Marzouk, the Deputy chairman of the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, sees a parallel with the resilience of Lebanon. "We are living in a war zone. The region is now used to bombings and war. Now people are not so afraid they are bringing their money back. Look at the Lebanese economy: it can still function despite all the problems," the London Times reported.

Now that it is clear the Iran-Iraq war is a private slugging match between two heavyweights, Kuwait's proximity to the Iran-Iraq war has, if anything, resulted in a fresh flush of confidence. Shuwaikh port is working at full capacity with more than three million tons of cargo unloaded in the first six months of 1981. The reason is not difficult to deduce — cargo is moving northwards to Iraq because of the congestion and increased risks attached to freighting direct to Iraq.

Base

By September 1982 production of trucks should begin at the National Automobile and Trading Company factory in Kuwait

now under construction. It is a joint venture with Magirus-Deutz of West Germany and just another sign of the broadening of the economy's base away from dependence on crude oil production and hydrocarbons-related industries. What is most encouraging to government planners is the presence of private investors in the line up.

Traditionally the government programme has concentrated on refining and petrochemicals. Kuwait's experience has in many ways led the way in the Gulf and is now being used to advantage by pan-Gulf ventures such as the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) plant proposed for Bahrain in which Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are joining together to make ammonia and methanol. At home the petrochemical industry is still being developed with Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) currently out to tender for a fourth ammonia line. This contract, for a 1,000 ton-day plant, is being competed for by Technipetrol of Italy, Creusot-Loire and Heurtey Petrochem of France, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Chiyoda Chemical Engineering & Construction of Japan.

The emergence of a sophisticated industrial base is expressed more by the medium and small contract awards than by the large government-financed projects. The Kuwait Chemical Manufac-

turing Company (KCMC) has recently awarded a 4m dinar (\$14.3m) contract to Switzerland's Bertrams for a synthetic resins plant. The 16,500 tons a year plant will produce feedstock for paint, varnish, adhesive and glass-fibre industries in Kuwait and other Gulf countries, using a process licensed by The Netherlands' Synres International which will also offer technical assistance. Here a local company is involved as a consultant, Kuwait Engineering Operation & Management Company (Kenomac) which has worked in North Yemen will supervise construction.

Private

The strength of the Kuwaiti private sector lies most clearly in manufacturing and contracting work for the construction industry. Kuwait's Kirby Building Systems makes pre-engineered steel buildings at the Shuaiba industrial area south of Kuwait city. Established only five years ago the factory has now completed more than 4,000 buildings in the Middle East. At present rates of production it can manage 40 a month. The 1980 turnover was more than 20m dinars (\$71.7m). The Kuwait factory's sign can be seen as far afield as Abu Dhabi lower down the Gulf where Kirby has done work for

the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). The export orientation of Kirby can be seen most spectacularly in the \$14m job it has done for Misr Bank near Alexandria in Egypt. Formerly owned by the American oil firm Kirby Exploration, Kirby is now owned by Al Ghanim Industries, a leading Kuwaiti business house.

Kuwait can be expected to take in services in its drive to diversify. Abdel-Latif Yousef Al-Hamad, the Finance & Planning Minister, said in August that he believed the services sector had the greatest potential.

Contracts

The minister's faith in the local economy has been expressed in a 1981-82 budget where electricity and water take the biggest share of actual expenditure. Heavy demand from industry, which appears to be capable of absorbing every gallon of water and kilowatt of electricity produced surplus to domestic requirements for air conditioning, has brought a ready response from government. There are fewer complaints from industry about government tardiness in supplying services than in many other Gulf states.

Maintenance and replacement contracts are an area in which

the Government hopes that local companies will play a more active role. Refurbishment of government buildings is now generally accepted as the sort of work to be awarded to local companies even where contracts total \$5m or more. When it comes to bigger contract such as the replacement of roads then contractors such as Kharafi International Contractors Group of Fiafi Trading & Contracting can expect a relatively easy race where foreign contractors probably will fail even to prequalify.

A local company recently achieved a notable success as a manufacturer by winning a \$18m contract to supply furniture for a large ministries complex. Abdel-Aziz Al-Usaimi furniture factory beat companies from France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, the United States and Britain in an open tender which 10 years ago would almost certainly have gone to a foreign company.

The deterrent to such investment in the 1970s was always that locally-made products could not compete on price or in quality with the imported item. Such arguments are heard less and less as local companies seek out new technology and apply it to manufacturing ventures at home in Kuwait. If there is any message it must be that diversification of the economy will mean more and more contracts going local.

KUWAIT

BRIEFS

LOAN TO GULF CEMENT COMPANY--The Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait has announced the signing of letters of guarantee worth around Yen 5 billion between the Gulf Cement Co. and a consortium of five banks and financial institutions led by the Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait, according to a report from KUNA, the official Kuwaiti news agency, last week. Under the agreement, which was signed at Al-Ahli Bank's head office, the bank will undertake to issue the letters of guarantee on behalf of the other institutions participating in the deal. These are the Arab African International Bank, the National Bank of Kuwait, the Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Company and the Industrial Bank of Kuwait, which is to act as agent. According to Al-Ahli Bank, the loan raised from the issue of letters of guarantee, totalling Yen 5.087 billion (about \$22.2 million), is to enable the Gulf Cement Co. to purchase two Japanese-built ships to transport cement. The ships will be paid for in eight half-yearly installments. The first payment will be made six months after the ships have been handed over. The Gulf Cement Co. has already taken delivery of one of the vessels, the Shaam, and delivery of the second, the Dahan, is scheduled for October 28. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 43, 26 Oct 81 p 4]

CSO: 4400/41

MINISTER CALLS FOR COUNTERING SOVIET THREAT

GF071425 Manama Gulf News Agency in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 81

[Text] Doha, 7 Nov (GNA)--Omani Information and Youth Affairs Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas has called on Arab countries to develop "the Gulf's intrinsic strength to counter Soviet efforts to encircle the strategic Gulf region."

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH published today, the Omani minister expressed his country's fear over the possibility that the PDRY might become a "new Hanoi that would be a source of trouble in the Arabian peninsula." Yet, he said: "Oman will do all that it can to prevent the region from becoming a new Saigon."

On the treaty signed by the PDRY, Libya and Ethiopia last August, he said: "There are indications that the Soviet Union is trying to encircle the region and that the natural countermeasure to such treaties lies in developing the Gulf's intrinsic strength." He described the Gulf Cooperation Council as "the rock against which all foreign ambitions will be foiled."

On the exercises U.S. forces will carry out with Omani forces next Monday, he said they are aimed at telling others that Oman is not without friends. These exercises are part of an Omani-U.S. agreement on facilities to introduce Oman to a means of communications with the United States in case of danger. They will also help it assess its ground potential.

The minister added: "These exercises are not more dangerous" than those exercises Soviet troops carried out in conjunction with Syrian troops in the summer or the Soviet fleet's exercises in the PDRY.

The Omani minister expressed his country's support for Saudi Arabia's peace plan in the Middle East. He said: "This plan is a turning point for Arab policy to achieve the minimum degree of Arab solidarity."

CSO: 4404/93

BRITISH PRESENCE, INFLUENCE CRITICIZED

Aden 14 OCTOBER in Arabic 14 Aug 81 p 1

[Article: "The Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman Criticizes Qabus' Venturing to Appoint a British Military Commander in His Army"]

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman [PFLO] has again urged the Arab countries to take harsh measures against the Qabus regime which has committed another act of betrayal over and above earlier national and pan-Arab betrayals and sacrifices of national sovereignty.

This emerged in a press release by the front's official spokesman concerning the appointment of Timothy Creasey, former commander of British ground forces, as chief of the general staff of the Omani armed forces.

The official spokesman recalled the grave situation which had resulted in Oman because of the extensive imperialist military presence that had arisen from the betrayals of the lackey Qabus regime.

He stated that this major military presence of American and British imperialism in Oman posed a threat not only to the Omani people and its national wealth but was a direct threat to the entire area.

The official spokesman pointed out that Qabus had asked Britain to extend the stay of British forces in the Sultanate, having made this request to Lord Carrington, the foreign minister, during his visit to Muscat and his meeting with the lackey, Qabus.

He also indicated that Oman had proposed that it be supplied with various military equipment, including a second squadron of Jaguar aircraft in addition of the first squadron which it has obtained.

The official spokesman stated that it had come as no surprise that Qabus should name a British commander as chief of staff of his army since the commander of the police was British and the chief of General Intelligence was also British; even the person in charge of prisons was a Britisher named (Craven) who used to deal in hogs in East Africa and was now in charge of all jails in Oman.

In closing, the official spokesman urged all peace-loving peoples to condemn and criticize the lackey Muscat regime and to stand beside the Omani people in order for it to achieve its just goals of freedom and independence.

WATER, ELECTRICITY RATES IN DHOFAR CAUSE CONCERN

Aden SAWT AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Sep 81 p 2

[Article: "Water, Electricity...and Mr Brown"]

[Text] There has been an alarming rise in the cost of water and electricity in the southern region of Oman (Dhofar) and people are now experiencing a major crisis because of the continued rise in prices for essential consumer goods since the merchants are setting prices as they wish--dictated by their greedy interests. With regard to water and electricity under the aegis of the al-Qabus regime which the British labeled "the era of prosperity," this issue has its own story. As we said, there has been an exorbitant rise in the cost of water and electricity and this has caused most people to resort to turning their lights off early at night to avoid an electricity bill that would take the major part of a family's funds. Given this increase in the water and electricity rates, the citizens wrote a petition to the governor of Dhofar (who resides in Salalah) and asked to meet with him to present their concerns and problems. After much difficulty, the governor agreed to meet with a group of the petitioners and scheduled a day and time for them to come to meet with him. The citizens went to the governor's office and he took the initiative by saying, "Why do you insist on asking to meet with me? I am very busy, there are many problems and I don't have any additional problems." They replied, "If you can't resolve our problems, then we ask your pardon and we will leave. We wish you well." The governor told them, "You must understand that I am the governor of Dhofar and am responsible for everything in this region (Dhofar). His Majesty, may God prolong his life, has given me his full confidence and has granted me full powers to act as I see fit for the benefit of the people and the homeland." The citizens were delighted with what the governor had to say and this encouraged them to begin to talk about their living conditions, the alarming rise in prices and the merchants; fixing of prices. They then turned to the subject of the water and electricity rates and asked the government to lower the prices. The governor put one hand on his chin, adjusted his turban with the other, fixed his gaze on the ceiling of the assembly room, turned red and said, "With regard to the subject of water, we will look into your request and, God willing, I will do everything I can to accomplish this. With regard to electricity, this is not within my jurisdiction." The citizens broke in to ask, "In whose jurisdiction is it? You are the governor of the area and, according to what you said, you have full powers from the Sultan and the Sultan has given you his trust." He replied hoarsely with a nonplussed look, "You will have to pardon me. Some issues should be directed to the appropriate offices." When they pressed him with questions to identify these offices, he said, and I quote, "Go to Mr Brown, the commander of intelligence, since electricity and its rates are within his jurisdiction. Is it understood?"

BRIEFS

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS--Muscat, 29 Oct (GNA)--Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman today issued decrees appointing al-Mu'tasim ibn Humud al-Busa'idi--who is currently Defense Ministry under secretary--minister of state and Hasan Ihsan Nasib Defense Ministry under secretary, in addition to his post as assistant chief of staff of the armed forces. [Manama Gulf News Agency in Arabic 0620 GMT 30 Oct 81]

OIL MINISTER ON MINERAL PRODUCTION--His Excellency Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari, minister of petroleum and minerals, has stressed that the Sultanate will maintain its rate of oil production of 320,000 barrels daily during the current 5-year plan. In a statement to UMAN, today he said: The Sultanate is maintaining its oil production until 1985 because it does not have any marketing problems [words indistinct]. He added: The price of Oman's oil is at present \$34 per barrel. He said oil is subject to supply and demand and is liable to a rise or reduction in price. [Sentence indistinct on copper production] The minister said next October the Sultanate will begin producing chrome. He expressed the hope that mineral production will allow the Sultanate to diversify its sources of national income in accordance with the August directives of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, may God protect him. [Text] [EA291452 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Oct 81]

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA--Minister of Trade and Industry Muhammad al-Zubayr returned home this morning following a 1-week visit to Australia during which he signed a trade and economic and technical cooperation agreement between the two countries on behalf of his majesty's government. The agreement was signed for Australia by John Anthony, deputy prime minister and minister of trade and resources. The agreement provides for trade cooperation so it can be developed and expanded to benefit both countries. The agreement also encourages and simplifies cooperation among corporations and trade institutions in both countries. The two countries have agreed to develop economic and technical cooperation, particularly in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, livestock, irrigation, rationing water consumption, power generation, engineering works, mineral exploration and industrialization. [Text] [GF251205 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Oct 81]

USSR MONITORING TELEPHONE CALLS--An Omani minister has revealed that the Soviet Union is using listening devices to monitor telephone conversations between the Sultanate of Oman and other countries. Accordingly, instructions have been issued not to discuss important matters and sensitive issues on the telephone. Also communications should be made through coded messages, the postal system or diplomatic pouches. [Text] [GF261749 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Oct 81 p 10]

WATER PROJECTS CITED--Oman's water supplies are adequate for its present needs but new sources have to be found to meet requirements of future development of agriculture and industry. The ancient falaj system and hand-dug wells are still the main sources of water supply in the rural area. Several projects to improve water supplies and develop new resources are being undertaken by the Water Resources Council. The Council's main function is to coordinate exploitation of water resources to ensure that a balance is kept between supply and demand. Last year saw the completion of three small concrete reservoirs and distribution extensions to increase water supplies in the capital area. New wellfields, with supporting services, were established in Sur, Buraimi and Sohar to meet higher demand by 1985. Hydrogeological investigations are being carried out at present to find a new source for the important inland town of Nizawa. Under study is development of a reservoir at Wadi Dayqah, some 90 km from the capital area. Indications are that the reservoir could supply some 45,000 cubic metres per day for the capital area by the mid-eighties. A second desalination plant is planned for the Al Gubrah complex to meet an anticipated growth in demand in Seeb, Azaiba and Rusayl, which is scheduled for industrial development. The government is also planning to instal several smaller desalination units like the one on Masirah island which produces about 120,000 gallons a day. The existing water scheme in other towns and villages is under review to establish the need for improved supplies and to determine appropriate water resource locations. It is anticipated that schemes of selected communities will be implemented as a rolling programme during the coming five-year plan. The council is studying two other methods of increasing water supplies. One method is to build re-charge dams to trap rain water which now runs to waste down both sides of the main mountain ranges, extending along much of the length of the country. The other is to tap deep aquifers by digging wells down to depths of 300-450 metres. [Text] [Dubai KHALEEJ TIMES SUPPLEMENT in English 27 Oct 81 p 3]

CSO: 4400/41

PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

CHAIRMAN DISCUSSES YEMEN UNIFICATION

EA292016 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Oct 81

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and of the Council of Ministers, has stressed that the new unified Yemeni state will certainly express the interests of the majority of the Yemeni people and will eliminate the divisive factors created by the colonialists and invaders and their local agents.

(?In an interview with AL-THALITH ASHAR MIN YUNYU) published in San'a', he (?stated that) this new state will reflect the Yemenis' eagerness to build a single state that includes every inch of our national soil. In it, all democratic liberties will be provided to the citizens and their mass organizations. Under its prosperity and happiness will be achieved for every citizen, free from oppression and exploitation.

The brother secretary general recalled what had been approved in the agreements concerning the restoration of Yemeni unity. He said: In light of the agreements and statements signed between the two parts and the results of the work of the unity committees, our people no longer need us to start afresh and start from scratch with ideas on the reunification of the homeland. Instead they expect us to work concretely toward cooperation and coordination along the road of reunifying the homeland, which we are determined to do. We are exerting efforts with brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih toward this goal.

In reply to a question about doubts caused by the attitude of the southern part of the homeland on the (?question) of the Islamic religion as the basic source of legislation, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: Our stand on religion cannot be kept within the limits of formalities which strip it of its progressive humanitarian content and deflect it from the path of the struggle against the enemies of humanity. Therefore the basis of the correct religion lies in the extent of practical commitment to its militant values and its human ideals, and not by verbal manipulation of it.

In this connection, the brother secretary general added: In our Islamic reality, there are different types of Muslims who are united by one religion, Islam, but who differ in practice. There are those who brag about Islam and their piety while they glorify America and utilize resources in its service [word indistinct]

in the service of the Zionist entity which is hostile to the interests of our Arab and Islamic peoples. There are armed masses who passionately love freedom and reject imperialist hegemony over their resources and who resist its aggressive designs.

During his interview with the newspaper AL-THALITH ASHAR MIN YUNYU, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad explained that we in the southern part understand that religion came to serve man and to liberate him from all forms of oppression, exploitation and backwardness. He went on: Our measures and legislation, which conform to the principles and aims of the 26 September and 14 October revolutions rest on this basis. We have stressed in the constitution that the Islamic religion is the religion of the state. We are in no need of those who indulge in outbidding over our Islam and the soundness of religious values in our country.

CSO: 4404/94

PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

LAW PASSED TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT--Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, the day before yesterday promulgated the law for encouraging investments, which stipulates further facilities and privileges for the investment of Yemeni, Arab and other foreign capital. The law is considered to be one of the most beneficial laws for investment promulgated in the last few years in the developing countries. It is the best of all those laws in view of the high level of stability enjoyed by the PDRY and the availability of economic resources for the success of invested capital. Yemeni, Arab and other foreign capital will find not only the maximum facilities and objective guarantees for the investor but also a high level of economic and political stability in Democratic Yemen, which has given priority to this law. Investors can understand this priority by making a comparative study of this law and other laws promulgated in recent years in many developing countries. [Words indistinct] in basic need of such political and economic stability that will give them confidence in the success of their investment project. [Excerpt] [EA242116 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 81]

CHAIRMAN CABLES BREZHNEV--'Ali Nasir Muhammad has sent a congratulatory cable to Leonid Brezhnev which reads, in part: "The relations of friendship and cooperation between our country and the USSR have constituted a source of strength for the struggle of our party and people towards the goals of the Yemeni revolution and in the building of a new (?state). We also highly appreciate the USSR's support for the just struggle being waged by our Arab peoples against imperialism and Zionism and in defense of their legitimate national rights, the most important of which is the right of the Palestinian Arab people, led by the PLO, to return to their homeland and build an independent state. Our celebration of this glorious anniversary is dear to our hearts and arouses in us intense feelings of gratification at the stage reached by the militant relations between our parties, peoples and countries which are based on the treaty of friendship and cooperation. We are confident that these relations will be further entrenched and developed to serve the noble principles and aims for which we are struggling under the guidance of the ideas of scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism. From the bottom of my heart, I personally wish you long health and happiness and success in your duties, the party in the friendly USSR further victories on the road of developing socialism and Soviet-Yemeni friendship continued progress and prosperity." [Summary] [EA071528 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Nov 81]

CSO: 4404/94

U.S. SAID TO INCITE EGYPT TO ATTACK LIBYA

GF100837 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 Nov 81 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] A witness from its own household has made the admission. This witness is very close to the U.S. State Department, CIA circles and the White House. In brief, the witness is close to U.S. decisionmakers. This witness is the U.S. newspaper, THE WASHINGTON POST, which is often described as "widely influential."

As for the testimony, which is very near to an admission, it is the primary evidence, in the opinion of lawyers. The testimony is that the United States has instigated, and is instigating, Egypt to commit aggression and to enter a war with Libya. For this purpose it gave Egypt an "assurance of protection" against any Soviet intervention. What attracts attention is that THE WASHINGTON POST says that "Washington's decision was probably conveyed to Husni Mubarak during his visit to the U.S. capital before al-Sadat's assassination."

When we examine the report we recall that it comes at a time when Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has repeatedly and openly affirmed that he will not attack any Arab country. In the past month he said--more than once to quote him: "We refused to enter war with Israel and wanted peace, how then will we mediate to enter a war with our neighboring Arab brothers?"

We have our own criticism of the Egyptian president's words on peace with Israel and we also have our own definite and clear stand on Camp David and its repercussions. Yet, we have not ignored the words on reconciliation with Arab brothers which President Mubarak has repeated, saying that there will be no war with Libya and that Egyptian forces on the frontiers with it have been withdrawn.

Is it mere coincidence that makes THE WASHINGTON POST report on the U.S. instigation of Egypt against Libya when the Egyptian president announced yesterday that Egypt will not be a puppet in the hands of any superpower? This is the path which Egypt abandoned when it began to talk about independence from Soviet influence only to find itself in the U.S. grip.

We sincerely hope that the Egyptian leadership will understand the meaning of the report by the U.S. newspaper, taking into consideration that this report is not directed at Egypt and its leadership only, but also at every country which

allows its policies to be controlled by any superpower, whether this superpower is from the East or from the West. The reason is that these superpowers seek only to promote their own interests and nothing else. To this end they do not shrink from starting wars and sowing seeds of discord, even among brothers.

We are not among those who say that all our problems and disputes have been created by the superpowers. Yet, we are among those who believe that these superpowers do not hesitate for a moment to exploit any dispute or to start any war that might insure their influence and guarantee the perpetuation of their presence in this region where the people understand all too well the grave dimensions of the "game of nations."

CSO: 4404/93

OIL MINISTER ASSESSES OPEC PRICE STRATEGY

GF040857 Manama Gulf News Agency in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Nov 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Nov (GNA)—Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, the UAE petroleum and natural resources ministers, returned home this morning after attending the emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, in Geneva last week.

Upon return Dr 'Utaybah stated: The decision that OPEC has arrived at on the unification of crude oil prices at \$34 per barrel is considered one of the most important decisions taken by the organization since its establishment, especially since the decision has come at a time when the oil market is characterized by slackness and confusion. The price decision will bring about some stability to the oil market and some assurance to both producers and consumers alike.

The minister asserted that this decision would open a broad vista for other decisions on laying down a long-term strategy for OPEC. He also said this decision will underline future petroleum policies, whether in regard to the oil market or to OPEC's relations with developing countries on the one hand and the industrial countries on the other.

Furthermore, Dr 'Utaybah said the determination of such a strategy will help set a fixed program for the OPEC countries on offering economic subsidies to developing countries. He noted that the Abu Dhabi conference to be held 9 December is expected to make a number of decisions that will support the Geneva prices unification decision and contribute to laying down features of OPEC's long-term strategy.

CSO: 4404/93

ABU DHABI EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Dubai KHALEEJ TIMES in English 24 Oct 81 p 3

[Text]

THE number of employees in 32 local departments of the Abu Dhabi emirate's government at the end of September was 23,133.

A statistical report issued by the administration and organisation department said that the number of Arab employees rose to 13,805, which was 59.66 per cent of the total number of employees in the emirate.

This increase in the number of Arab employees is the result of the government's Arabisation policy, giving preference to nationals and other Arabs in making appointments.

The number of national employees among the Arabs is 3,896, which is 16.81 per cent of the total number of employees in the emirate. Among them 58 occupy top posts.

Of the total number of employees, 16,871 are working in five local departments which are: Abu Dhabi and Al Ain municipalities (8,032) water and electricity departments (7,623) and the marine ports department (1,216).

The rest of the employees, numbering 6,262, are working in 27 local departments.

The administration and organisation department completed appointment procedures for 173 new employees and terminated the services of 191.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS--'Ali 'Abdallah Rashid, UAE foreign affairs minister today received the credentials of Kai Helmer Helenius, nonresident Finnish ambassador; Leonidas Vrailis, nonresident Greek ambassador; Eduard Seger Bernard Beelaerts van Blokland, nonresident Netherlands ambassador; Thord Bengtson, nonresident Swedish ambassador; and Frantz Benaventura Howitz, nonresident Danish ambassador to UAE. [Manama Gulf News Agency in Arabic 1233 GMT 31 Oct 81]

CSO: 4404/93

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

LEADER MEETS OPPOSITION IN SYRIA—Damascus, 1 Nov (KUNA)--It was disclosed here today that during the visit of YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Syria, he met for the first time in 3 years with the opposition to his regime. An official source from the Yemeni National Movement, which is opposed to the regime in San'a, told JUNA that President Salih who returned home today, "showed his willingness during the meeting to allow the members of the national movement to return home and participate in the government." The source said that "it was also agreed to continue the dialogue and the meetings between the regime and the movement's leadership in order to overcome the obstacles hindering Yemeni political accord." It was announced that certain demands by the movement still pose an obstacle to accord. Some of these demands concern domestic policy, and are connected with the release of political prisoners and democratic freedoms. Others, concerning foreign policy, demand commitment to positive neutrality and nonalignment. The source added that the movement responded to Colonel Salih's request for such a meeting in an attempt to spare the blood of Yemeni citizens and that it is prepared to continue the dialogue and meetings with the regime for the same purpose. [Text] [LD011558 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1428 GMT 1 Nov 81]

PEACE, SOLIDARITY SECRETARIAT MEETS—At its first meeting under Brother Muhammad Lutfi al-Sabahi, the general secretariat of the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council discussed a number of issues related to defining the tasks and duties of the secretariat in order to draw up its bylaws. Tasks were distributed among the secretariat members. Brother Ahmad Luqman was assigned the duties of the secretary general and Brother Ahmad Muhammad al-Iryani the duties of assistant secretary general. After the meeting, Brother Ahmad Luqman told the SABA' News Agency that the council will devote its work to the aims for which it was formed, particularly current issues, solidarity in the world and efforts exerted by forces calling for peace to preserve world security and peace and to stand by the side of peoples fighting for freedom, independence and self-determination. He affirmed the council's appreciation for the political line which was drawn up by our political leadership and to which our country is committed in dealing with Arab and international issues, in its commitment to the policy of nonalignment, positive neutrality, and to opposing international alliances and military blocs. [Text] [JN242009 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Oct 81]

NEW AMBASSADORS—The following ambassadors presented their credentials to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on 24 October 1981: David Eugene Zweifel,

ambassador extraordinaire and plenipotentiary of the United States of America; (George Hiba), nonresident ambassador extraordinaire and plenipotentiary of Malta; (Yasir Muhammad Sidqi), ambassador extraordinaire and plenipotentiary of Somalia; (Arbek Kohi), nonresident ambassador extraordinaire and plenipotentiary of Australia; Ahmed Ould Muhamed Salah, nonresident ambassador extraordinaire and plenipotentiary of Mauritania; Pedro Paulo de Moraes Alves Machado, nonresident ambassador extraordinaire and plenipotentiary of Portugal; and (Badel Sprio Yerovitch), nonresident ambassador extraordinaire and plenipotentiary of Yugoslavia. [JN242106 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Oct 81]

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